

WACO / Branch Davidian Com  
pound

File No# 63- HQ-1050305

Section No# 7

SUBJECT

Waco / Branch Sheridan Compound

FILE NUMBER

63-HQ-1050305

SECTION NUMBER

7

**EXEMPTIONS: b6 b7c**

(See Section 1 for Explanation of Exemptions)

[REDACTED] b6  
b7C  
April 19th, 1993

Attorney General Janet Reno  
Department of "Justice"  
10th St. and Constitution Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Ms. Reno:

How can the FBI say it is "shocked"? Only days ago, their spokesman whined about David Koresh's threats of suicide. How can you call the Branch Davidians' end as "tragic and horrible"? You were the one who decided to "escalate" the pressure.

How can the ATF claim the end should have been "negotiated"? They were the ones who, instead of even trying to negotiate, set the events moving with their abortive assault on February 28th. I had heard that, under Steven Higgins, the ATF has made a lot of "show-boat" assaults on people. I thought, when the FBI took over, things would be more professional.

How can you claim your actions were a part of law enforcement? They were not. They were military actions. Law enforcers are taught to save people. Warriors are trained to assault the enemy. You declared war on those people.

By branding the Davidians as cultists, fanatics, and child abusers, you tried to dehumanize them in our eyes. But no propaganda can erase seeing their home going up in flames, knowing men, women, and - especially - children were gone forever.

The end should have been no surprise. After destroying their life, their property, and their future, you left them nothing. They left us a little more: the image of a family of human beings eradicated by your intolerance.

I am ashamed of our officials,

63-HQ-1050305-431

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
cc: President Clinton  
William Sessions  
Ann Richards  
MAY 11 1993  
MAIL ROOM [REDACTED]

b6 WILLIAM SESSIONS

b7C FBI DIRECTOR

WASHINGTON DC b6  
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63-HQ-1050305 [REDACTED]



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[REDACTED]

April 20, 1993

Judge William Sessions, Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
J. Edgar Hoover Building  
9th and Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 2005

Dear Judge Sessions:

In my opinion, the FBI showed remarkable restraint and a high degree of competence and professionalism in handling the most difficult David Koresh matter. The "Monday Morning quarterbacks" who are critical have conveniently forgotten that David Koresh could have surrendered peacefully at any point during the 51-day siege, and could have saved everyone in the compound by electing to face the consequences of his own actions. He simply decided to die rather than face prison, and shamefully took women, children, and his other followers with him. What an ogre!

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[REDACTED]

I know the tremendous pressure Bob Ricks and his colleagues were under in Waco, and would appreciate you forwarding my comments to them. They performed superbly with a high degree of restraint.

You [REDACTED] have my total support. Please let me know if there's anything I can do to help.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

63-HQ-1050365-432

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MAY 20 1993

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US  
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# POLICE DEPARTMENT

4 2015 1st AVE. NO., ANOKA, MINNESOTA 55303



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April 21, 1993

William Sessions, Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Ninth St. & Pennsylvania NW  
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Director Sessions,

I know that you and your agents have been under a lot of pressure since the beginning of the Waco incident. I just wanted to drop you a note to tell you how much I support you and the FBI in the very professional manner in which you've handled yourself in the face of that crisis.

As we are all well aware in this business, situations like the one in Waco, Texas, are no win situations. You weigh the best information you have and then go forward to deal with the problem. As tragic as that incident ended up, it was not the fault of the ATF, FBI, or the Justice Department.

You are doing an excellent job. Keep up the good work and good luck.

Sincerely,

63-HQ-1050305-433

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OPH



AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

Affirmative Action / Equal Opportunity Employer

MAIL ROOM ☒

ACK  
5/19/93

MAY 20 1993

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b6 b7c

20 Apr 93

FBI Dir Sessions,

Dear Sir:

This is a letter of apology. While I still think you dragged your feet I am sorry your crew got caught in the mess. I have been expecting another Jonestown but I didn't think it would be this long coming and by fire.

That David Kereh sure is or was a child of Lucifer. How he could ask his followers to die by fire. At least Jones did with his people but I think Kereh probably saved himself.

Again I apologise but I do think it dragged on too long.

63-HQ-1056305-434

Sincerely,

b6 b7c

CRN

May 25, 1993

Dear [REDACTED]

Your correspondence concerning the former standoff at the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas, has been received. Your interest in sharing your views with us is appreciated.

Our trained negotiators were, regrettably, unable to convince David Koresh to bring this situation to a peaceful resolution without further loss of life. The events of April, 19th were indeed tragic for everyone involved, including the dedicated men and women in law enforcement who worked hard to preclude this tragedy.

Sincerely yours,

*/s/*  
Michael F. Knapp  
Inspector-Deputy Chief  
Office of Public and  
Congressional Affairs

- 1 - SAC, San Antonio - Enclosure  
1 - Mr. Collingwood - (Room 7240)

63-HQ-1050305-435

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Telephone Rm.	
Director's Office	

MAIL ROOM

63-HQ-1050305

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21  
[REDACTED]  
April 21, 1993

Honorable Judge William Sessions  
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation  
J. Edgar Hoover Building  
Washington, District of Columbia

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[REDACTED]  
Dear Judge Sessions.

I am mandated by my conscience to write and let you know that all of your agents, from Jeff Garner & Jim Riche and all the others are to be commended for the way they conducted themselves in the Waco Texaco incident. I'm sure they were frustrated and their patience was stretched to the limit with that nut case

Korach. And there is no way in Hell that they would have started that fire that caused the lives of those cult members.

63-HQ-1050305-436

I'm a retired law enforcement officer and I know what they were going through. Deep hate of them and to you also for the professionalism they showed.

b6  
b7C And show them all.

I remain, Sincerely,  
[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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MAY 18 1993

[REDACTED]

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Dear [REDACTED]

Wm TX

Thank you for your April 21st letter of strong support for the FBI in its handling of the siege at the Mount Carmel Compound in Texas. You were very kind to compliment Special Agents in Charge Jeffrey Jamar and Bob Ricks, and I will certainly share your letter with them.

The FBI relies upon the strong support of the American people for what it does, and I appreciate your expression of that support. I know Special Agents in Charge Jamar and Ricks will join me in thanking you.

Sincerely yours,

William S. Sessions

William S. Sessions  
Director

- 1 - SAC, San Antonio (PERSONAL ATTENTION) - Enclosure
- 1 - SAC, Oklahoma City (PERSONAL ATTENTION) - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Collingwood, Room 7240

63-HQ-1050305-437

NOTE: Letter requested by the Director. No record in Bufiles.

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Telephone Rm.	_____
Director's Office	_____

MAIL ROOM ☐

APPROVED: [REDACTED]

Director  
Dep. Dir.  
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Crim. Inv.  
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Info. Mgmt.

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b7C

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[REDACTED]

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April 21, 1993

The F B I  
Dear Sirs:

The problems in Waco <sup>TX</sup> was  
tragic but I am in awe  
at the amount of patience  
and effort the Agency and  
its men used to try for  
a good outcome!

63-HQ-1050305-438

Sincerely yours

[REDACTED]

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b7C

[REDACTED]

for 5/17/93

"second 5/18/93

304

April 21, 1993

Federal Bureau of Investigations  
Washington D.C. 20000

Att: Mr. Wm. Sessions

Dear Mr. Sessions:

① W910 TX

In considering the outcome of the tragedy at Waco many people are wondering about the possibility of alternatives.

Would it have been possible and legal to build a security fence around the whole compound and declare the area a Texas Max prison? Then wait it out using around the clock watch guard which could alert the authorities to any sign of change going on inside?

Or would you ever consider calling in some experienced specialists from the ALTERNATIVES TO VIOLENCE program which was active during the 60's protest confrontations and in New York prison unrest?

There can be no plus to this situation, no sense to all the deaths on both sides unless something is learned from it.

I do hope we have all learned something - about Cults, about violence as a solution to "possible" violence!

63-HQ-1050305-439

I sincerely sympathize with you and your bureau during this horrendous no-win situation.

Yours truly,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted initials]

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Mr. William Sessions Director  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS  
Washington, D.C. 20000

OK

21/93  
b6  
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31  
MAY 18 1993

[REDACTED]  
Dear [REDACTED] b6 b7c

Thank you for your April 21st letter of support for the FBI in its handling of the siege at the Mount Carmel Compound in Waco, Texas.

The FBI relies upon the support of the American people for what it does, and I appreciate your expression of that support.

Sincerely yours,

William S. Sessions

William S. Sessions  
Director

- MAILED 1  
FBI  
1 - SAC, San Antonio (PERSONAL ATTENTION) - Enclosure  
1 - Mr. Collingwood, Room 7240

63 HQ-1050305-440

NOTE: Above response requested by the Director. No record in

Bufiles.

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Dep. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
ADD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director's Office \_\_\_\_\_

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APPROVED: 5/18

Director [initials]  
Dep. Dir. [initials]  
ADD-Adm. [initials]  
ADD-Inv. [initials]  
Adm. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_  
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TOM Off. \_\_\_\_\_

62-HQ 1050305

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b6  
b7c

May 24, 1993

Dear [REDACTED]

Your recent correspondence concerning the former standoff in Waco, Texas, has been received. Your interest in sharing your views and suggestions with us is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

*/s/*  
Michael F. Knapp  
Inspector-Deputy Chief  
Office of Public and  
Congressional Affairs

- 1 - SAC, San Antonio (PERSONAL ATTENTION) - Enclosure  
1 - Mr. Collingwood, Room 7240

63-HQ-1050305-441

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63-HQ-1050305

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F.B.I.

5-1-93

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Dear Director Sessions,

Despite the need for investigations & Monday morning Q.B.ing - I hope you will strongly support the agents who were at Waco, Tx.

They were given an impossible mission - in the court of public opinion - its tough for teams "to win".

I have had some military & police experience and I think they were very resourceful and skilled in their attack on the

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63-47-1050301

The agents will always be sorry about the innocent children who died - the agents deserve the concrete compassion the rest of us can provide. Good Luck.

[Redacted]

(S)

[Redacted]

Tom [Redacted]

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b7c

ACK  
5/14/93

MAILED 31

MAY 20 1993

310  
April 30, 1993

Mr. William Sessions, Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigations  
Washington, D.C. 20537

Dear Mr. Sessions:

I have observed the Congressional Hearings concerning the procedures followed in the Waco, Texas situation. I would like to offer a few words of support to you and the people in the Bureau.

First, we have all heard plenty of criticisms of the manner in which this situation was handled. I have yet to hear anyone present an alternative plan, in which the outcome would have been any different.

Second, it seems to me that the news media must bear some responsibility for interfering in an already very complex and dangerous situation. I might add, that I have already written a letter to ABC News regarding their lack of ethical conduct in this situation.

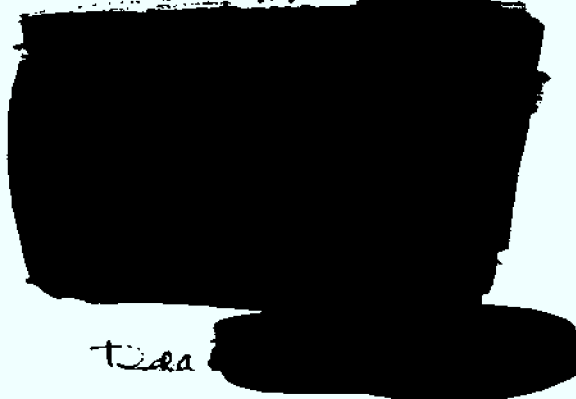
I realize that what information that people like me receive is obtained from the media. We have no way of knowing if this information is valid.

You and the dedicated people who serve with the FBI and other law enforcement agencies have been unmercifully criticized. I would like for you to know that I along with many other average citizens support you and your Bureau. The average citizen of this country may be silent in this matter, but I really feel that there is much support in the country for what you and your dedicated people do each day to help protect us from criminal activity.

Please realize that we support you and pray for your safety.

Thanks for all that you do to protect our great country.


Sincerely yours,

63-HQ-1050305-443  


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63-HQ-1050305

QAPK 

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5/1/93

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[REDACTED]

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b7c

De: [REDACTED]

April 28, 1993

Mr. William Sessions, Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
J. Edgar Hoover Building  
Washington, DC.

Dear Mr. Sessions:

Your actions in handling the crisis in Waco seem to me to have been appropriate. Everyone regrets the fire and the death of the people in the compound, but the outcome was not the fault of the government. The government agents on the scene did all they could in a virtually impossible situation.

It makes me mad when I see the media and the Congress jump in after the fact criticizing and passing judgment. They had no solutions to offer. They didn't have to take responsibility. They didn't have to risk their lives at the compound. But they can't wait to get themselves up in front of the TV cameras passing morale judgments. The stupid questions and comments some of those congressmen made at the hearing were appalling.

I also find it offensive that they try to make a national issue out of this one incident. The government has other things to worry about besides the Branch Davidians. Yet the media expect everyone from the President on down to drop everything and listen to them carp and complain about it.

Let's get on with governing the country. The administration should set the national agenda not the reporters and the crackpots like Koresh.

The country continues to be proud of the FBI. Best wishes.

63-HQ-1050305-444

63-HQ-1050305

Yours truly,

[REDACTED]

b6  
b7c

QPS

MAILED 31

MAY 20 1993

FBI

MAIL ROOM

ACK  
MAY 1993

Dear [redacted] April 26, 1993

PH 304-295-8751  
W910 TX

Dear Mr. Sessions, Miss Reno,  
I'm enclosing articles from <sup>our</sup> local paper (last Friday) of the Parkersburg Post-Journal. Greg Summers was one of our local boys, having graduated from P.H.S. with one of my granddaughters - I knew his family (since 4/3).

We all know David K. was the "Doomsday Culprit" - and 100% at fault - The FBI and AFT put forth every effort to solve that mess & fully believe using the tanks is exactly what woke those Convicts up at the Ohio Prison and caused them to surrender - They saw & realized tanks were mightier than their tongues & threats. 63-HQ-1050305-445

My only regret is you didn't gas them day 2 of the incident - You were too sympathetic. Those of us with common sense knew you had your reasons for going thru day 1 - I've been concerned about that whole "wheeling" since they found a body/bodies a few years ago - I've never touch it because I won't pay money to support them - I praise the FBI in every action. b6 b7c Sincerely [redacted]

MAILED 31  
MAY 20 1993  
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b7c  
ACK  
5/19/93

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED  
ENCLOSURE

MAIL ROOM [redacted] 63-HQ-1050305

# PHS Graduate Among Those Dead in Waco

By JULIE CRYSE  
Sentinel Reporter

Gregory Allen Summers, a 1983 graduate of Parkersburg High School, is one of the 83 people presumed dead after a fiery ending to the 51-day standoff in Waco, Texas.

Summers, 28, the son of Edna Summers of Parkersburg and Michael Summers, who now lives in Las Vegas, Nev., joined the cult in 1987 after meeting Branch Davidian members in Hawaii.

Mrs. Summers said Thursday she feels her son got involved with the cult because he was away from his family and needed a father figure. She described her son's relationship with his father as being detached.

"I wanted him to come back home, but he wanted to prove he was a 'big boy,'" said Mrs. Summers.

Mrs. Summers said she warned her son that the group he had joined sounded like a cult. He told her it was just a group he liked to study the Bible with.

Mrs. Summers spoke to her son for the last time on Feb. 27, the day before the original assault by the FBI on the compound. There was



Summers

no sign that anything was different except she only spoke to him for about eight minutes instead of the usual 45-minute conversations they had.

Mrs. Summers said Greg told her another person needed to use the phone.

She was never told there was a compound and had never heard of David Koresh until after the siege, she said Thursday.

"No, I never dreamed," said Mrs. Summers, when asked if she felt her son would be involved in the siege and mass suicide. She said her son did not like guns.

After killing a deer in high school, Greg swore he never wanted anything to do with guns again, she said.

Summers married an Australian, Aisha Gyafas, three years ago. Gyafas was 14 years old at the time, Mrs. Summers said.

Although a child with the last name of Summers was listed in USA Today as a victim of the mass suicide, Mrs. Summers said she does not believe it was her son's child.

His wife had become pregnant a few years ago, but Summers told his mother his wife had lost the baby and never spoke about the possibility of having another child.

Mrs. Summers said if her son had had a child, he would have told her.

Mrs. Summers sent her son's dental records to the FBI in San Antonio, Texas, earlier this

See Summers on Page 10

## ● Summers

Continued from Page 1

week to try to match them with remains found in the compound.

Mrs. Summers said she fears the dental records may not be enough, citing reports that say investigators are finding parts of bodies dispersed throughout the compound.

"I would like to have his body at peace, but the Lord will take care of that no matter where he is," said Mrs. Summers.

Summers was an "upbeat person," his mother said. His cousin, Scott Tanner of Vienna,

Parkersburg in 1980. He is the youngest of four brothers.

Tanner said Summers changed after he met the cult members in Hawaii. Tanner was living in Hawaii at that time, also.

Summers went from having a good job as a salesman and driving a nice car to living in a place that was about to be condemned and selling his car almost overnight, said Tanner.

The relationship Tanner had with

## PHS

Continued from Page 1A

and the nightmare would be over," she said. "I was praying that they would all come out alive."

On Wednesday, the 50-year-old Parkersburg woman found her son's name among the list of followers the FBI believes perished in the blaze. Alongside it was the name of Summers' 17-year-old wife, Aisha Summers Koresch, an Australian follower he married four years ago, and a one-year-old child named Startle Summers who Ms. Summers did not know existed.

She described Summers as an intelligent and vivacious young man who parried too hard in college and used the cult to fill the gaps in a long-distance relationship with his family.

Ms. Summers said her son had been constantly searching for a father figure since she and his father, Mike, now a Las Vegas resident, divorced.

Summers was the youngest of four children born to the couple, a grandson of noted Wood County businessman, the late Karl Summers and a nephew of former Parkersburg mayor, the late Pat S. Pappas. He was the PHS school mascot — the Big Red Indian — in 1983 and later attended his freshman year at West Virginia University in Morgantown, where he parried and liked to chase girls, Ms. Summers said.

His initial contact with the cult came while he was attending Hawaii Pacific College in Honolulu.

Summers' grandmother, Eloise, said that brush with the group changed her grandson's life.

"After that he wasn't drinking or smoking or doing drugs. He was eating right. He was living a spiritual life. I never thought it was anything like this," Mrs. Summers said.

According to the family, Summers, who was raised Catholic, joined the cult in 1985. Later he moved to one of Koresch's homes in California, where he worked as a sound technician at many of the big Los Angeles recording studios and turned his earnings over to the group.

Ms. Summers said her son loved Hawaii, but claimed "I'm moving back to the mainland for God — to do the work of God."

"He was living a good life. He wasn't smoking. He wasn't drink-

ing. He wasn't chasing women. He would say, 'Mom, aren't you proud of me?' And I'd say, 'Yes, but I'm concerned.'" Ms. Summers recalled.

Summers maintained constant contact with his family. Ms. Summers said the two talked by telephone at least once a week. He also frequently telephoned and wrote his grandmother.

"His letters were all happy letters. He used to write about what a wonderful childhood he had here and how much he enjoyed his childhood," Mrs. Summers said.

Religion was always a topic of discussion.

"He always wanted to talk about Revelation. He was finding something in the Bible that thrilled him," Ms. Summers said. That discovery "made him more satisfied with his life," her former mother-in-law added.

"He told me he wanted to be ready for Christ when He came, and he often said he feared he would die for his beliefs because all of God's followers died. He told me 'I'm ready to die for what I believe in,'" Mrs. Summers recalled Thursday.

Summers was home twice in the last four years — once to announce his marriage to the then 14-year-old Aisha Oyartas, whose parents and brother were cult members. Three or four months later, Ms. Summers said her son telephoned to say the couple was expecting its first child. Summers later told the family his wife miscarried. The last time he was in Parkersburg was two years ago.

Ms. Summers said her son was a vegetarian, who ate beans or nuts and "never had a penny to his name."

"He wasn't allowed to have coffee, tea, chocolate — for awhile, nothing with sugar," she recalled. "... I sent him a check one time and he sent it back to me."

The family seriously began to suspect something last year when Summers told his mother and brothers he could not come home for his older brother's wedding.

"He said, 'Mom, I just can't get away — please don't ask me,'" Ms. Summers recalled. "He never told me he didn't have permission, but you have a second sense about these things."

Ms. Summers said her son talked less and less of his wife. He had returned to the Waco compound only one or two weeks prior to the stand-off, having spent the previous six months in California without his wife.

"I would say, 'Don't you get upset being away from Aisha,' but he would tell me friends were looking after her. As a mother, you keep your mouth shut about a lot," Ms. Summers said.

She described her son as fun-loving, family-oriented man who at the age of 7 threw her a surprise birthday party and invited the priest. One of her fondest memories of him is when he gave her a 3 1/4-foot teddy bear before leaving for Hawaii. "He wrote me this note and said, 'When you need a hug, hug the bear. It will be me.'"

Ms. Summers said her son never mentioned Koresch by name, although he did say the group had a prophet.

"(Greg) was looking for a father figure — someone who would control things for him," she said.

Koresch is said to have taken all male followers' wives as his own, which is why Ms. Summers believes her daughter-in-law's name was listed as Aisha Summers Koresch. But she has difficulty believing her son had fathered a child and not told family members about it.

Ms. Summers has provided the FBI with photos of her son and copies of his letters home. On Wednesday, she was asked to forward his dental records for identification purposes.

She has since discovered that Aisha Summers' brother, Oliver, is one of the survivors. She has written to him in hopes of learning about her son's last hours and his life in the cult. Telephone calls to Koresch's facilities in California have resulted in little information.

"He used to tell me, 'Mom, it's just a Bible group. We enjoy each other's company and studying the Bible together.' I couldn't give it credibility — it was just too far out," Ms. Summers said. "I don't blame the FBI or the ATF. Greg has to take responsibility for his own actions, but that doesn't make this any easier to accept."

Ms. Summers expects her son's remains will be returned to Parkersburg for burial, but she is not sure when that will happen.

# The Parkersburg News

Founded in 1857

Edward W. Kruger  
Publisher

Charles R. Jarvis  
Editor

W. Edward Hofmann  
Advertising Director/Assistant Publisher  
519 Juliana St. • P.O. Box 1788 • Parkersburg, W. Va. 26102

Joseph A. Bell Sr.    Herman W. Buskirk  
Circulation Manager    Production Manager  
Telephone 485-1891

Page 4A

Thursday, April 22, 1993

## EDITORIALS

### Blame Koresh Cult Leader Should Be Held Responsible For Deaths in Waco, Not Federal Authorities

Even as the ashes of Ranch Apocalypse continued to smolder today, authorities were hit by a barrage of criticism over their handling of the deadly affair. There were calls for investigations and threats of lawsuits.

As Attorney General Janet Reno pointed out, investigations are imperative. Authorities must know exactly what happened at the compound run by cult leader David Koresh near Waco, Texas.

First, it's important to know precisely why the two-month standoff culminated in an inferno which killed more than 80 people. Questions already have been raised about why equipment and personnel to cope with a fire were not more readily available. Questions also have been asked about the FBI's tactics.

Second, it's vital Americans probe the problem of why Koresh was able to take so many people with him when he committed suicide. How did he gain so much power over so many people? What — if anything — can society do to prevent future Ranch Apocalypses?

These questions ought to be asked from a proper perspective. Incredibly, some seem to blame authorities for the horror. If Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agents hadn't tried to arrest Koresh several weeks ago, Branch Dividian cultists might still be alive, say critics. Others say the FBI somehow forced Koresh to turn

Ranch Apocalypse into a killing ground.

Nonsense. ATF agents indeed bungled their attempt to arrest Koresh. Four agents paid with their lives. But were authorities to simply ignore evidence that Koresh — who was determined, somehow, to carry out his apocalyptic visions — was stockpiling enough arms to start a small war? Of course not. Could they dismiss allegations of child abuse? Again, of course not. Something had to be done about Koresh.

Once the siege began, federal agents handled it with as much care as possible. For nearly two months they avoided violent confrontation with Koresh, trying to talk him out of his compound. They acted only when new evidence of vicious child abuse surfaced. They acted only when it became apparent the cult could not hold out much longer — and when, with every piece of evidence available, they had reason to think Koresh intended his cult would die violently.

Deaths of more than 80 men, women and children at Ranch Apocalypse are the fault of David Koresh — not of authorities. Blaming anyone but Koresh for the terror in Texas merely makes it easier for a new brainwasher to convince new adherents that there's nothing wrong with a twisted cult. Blaming anyone but Koresh, in essence, increases the likelihood of a new Ranch Apocalypse sometime in the future.

# Readers' Forum

Did the FBI act properly in the Waco, Texas, standoff?



**Jeff Berdine Williamsdown**

"Yes, I think 51 days was long enough. The FBI had to do something to try and get those people out."



**Rick Berdine Williamsdown**

"It was pretty obvious that the cult members were not going to come out any time soon. Something had to be done."



**Will Schenertlein Parkersburg**

"They went in too late. That should have been over much earlier than it was."



**Julia Dennis Vienna**

"The FBI should have acted quicker. By the time it ended, the cult was just wasting people's time and money."



**Michael Templeton Parkersburg**

"It should have been over much sooner. The cult members wasted a lot of the taxpayers' money."

Survey by Sean Coleman, Sentinel Reporter

# The Parkersburg News

Vol. 96, No. 75

Parkersburg, West Virginia, Friday Morning, April 23, 1993

36 Cents

## PHS Grad Dies in Waco Fire

By ANNETTA RICHARDSON  
Staff Writer



A former Parkersburg man apparently perished along-side Branch Davidians prophet David Koresh in the fiery conclusion of a 51-day standoff with police near Waco, Texas.

Gregory Allen Summers, 26, a 1984 Parkersburg High School graduate and former Big Red mascot, recently told his grandmother, "I'm ready to die for what I believe in."

Summers, the descendant of a prominent Wood County family, appears to have fulfilled that prophecy.

The highly publicized episode began in February when FBI and Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agents stormed the Koresh stronghold in a weapons raid that left at least four federal agents and several cultists dead.

"Devastated is not quite the word for what we've been going through these last 51 days," Summers' mother, Edna, an accountant for the Parkersburg Bureau of the Public Debt, said Thursday.

Mr. Summers last spoke with her son Feb. 27 — the day before the stand-off began.

"I knew Greg was involved in some kind of religious group, but until the original story came over the wire, I knew nothing about a compound. I knew nothing about David Koresh," Mr. Summers said.

She telephoned the FBI that day and discovered that the telephone number her son had given her was indeed the one used at the Koresh compound.

The call began when Mr. Summers described as a 51-day night-mare.

"I kept hoping I would wake up. Please turn to PHS, P7A.

### Survivors From Cult Describe Last Hours

By JAMIE ALON  
Associated Press Writer

WACO, Texas — As the walls came tumbling down and war gas died the day, cult leader David Koresh sprang into action.

He led his fanatical, third-floor bedroom with all the ammunition and began leading around the more sparsely decorated lower, making sure women and children were secure and checking that everyone had their gun tucked on properly.

As he strode the hall, Koresh saw Steve Schneider, his right-hand man, sitting on the floor listening to a portable radio through headphones.

He was listening to his own tape-recorded death.

Within hours, the cult compound became an inferno. Only also, Branch Davidians escaped the pyre to tell how the 51-day standoff ended.

This is their story, gleaned from lawyers who spoke with its members now jailed on charges that include conspiracy and murder.

Schneider was frustrated. The radio was his only contact with the outside world since he ripped out the compound's only phone line that morning in a tantrum after federal officials denied an ultimatum.

FBI agents weary of waiting for Koresh, Schneider and the other 93 Branch Davidians called before dawn Monday saying this was the last.

Please turn to LAST, P7A.



Gregory Allen Summers, a PHS grad and former Big Red mascot, appears to have died in the Branch Davidian riot in Waco, Texas. He told family members he was ready to die for his beliefs.

## Last

Continued from Page 1A

cult's last chance: come out or prepare to get forced out.

They kept their word. By dawn, tanks were battering the Mount Carmel compound, punching for hours at its walls again and again to break them open for the gas to come.

The Davidians, meanwhile, kept to their daily routines.

Strapped into gas masks, the women tended to laundry. Others read their Bibles in their rooms. The 17 children, all under 10 years old, remained on the second floor, by their mothers' sides.

Still, it was hard to ignore what was happening around them.

Each punch from a tank violently rattled the poorly constructed building. Cult members dodged falling sheet rock and doors. Nozzles on the tanks and hundreds of gas canisters hurled in from the armored vehicles were filling the air with noxious fumes.

The flying canisters were more frightening than the more visible tanks. At least one man was hit in the face.

The gas began filling the air, swirling from room to room and floor to floor, driven by heavy gusts of wind through the windows and holes the tanks made.

The currents created deceptively safe air pockets.

Thinking he was in a safe spot, one man slipped off his gas mask to drink a glass of water. In seconds his dry throat burned, his eyes watered and his skin crawled.

Staying where they were, scattered throughout the house they made no effort to gather. But they seemed to be thinking in concert: the government's action was infuriating them all and only strengthened their resolve.

They would never come out now.

Then the FBI sent in its biggest weapon — a massive armored vehicle larger than the others and headed for a chamber lined with cinder blocks where authorities hoped to find Koresh and Schneider and fire tear gas directly at them.

May 5, 1993

Mr. William Sessions  
Director of the F B I  
J. Edgar Hoover F B I Building  
10th & Pennsylvania N.W.  
Washington, DC 20535

Dear Mr. Sessions:

On behalf of my husband and I, we wanted to say thanks to the F B I along with other law enforcement agencies for all their efforts during the David Koresh standoff in Waco, Texas. We, and all our friends, neighbors, etc. with whom we have discussed this situation are in total support of the F B I and the other law enforcement agencies that participated there.

As Christians ourselves, we feared that there could never be a happy, peaceful ending with such a crazy, wicked man with his beliefs and practices. We were, and are behind you and your agents 100%, and sorry to be so late in saying so.

Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature block]

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63-HQ-1050305-446

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MAY 20 1993

FBI

Farm Rd

MAIL ROOM

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5/19/93

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[Redacted signature]

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[REDACTED]

Director William Sessions  
Federal Bureau of Investigations  
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear [REDACTED]

April 22, 1993

① W910 TX

Dear Director:

I don't write to Washington D.C., for as a general rule I consider it would be a waist of time, and postage, however at this time I feel the need to speak out. Unfortunately my voice will not be heard where it will do any good, nor would I be considered by most in Washington to be any more than an annoyance at best.

I write because I want you to know I have talked to many people and like the rest of the country the topic of discussion has been David Koresh, and Waco, Texas. I want you, and as many possible to know we support your actions. You handled yourself well on TV, and exercising more restraint than I would have. Forget not the main issue, a warrant was in hand which states in fact to pursue and bring before the court. I followed the incident closely from the beginning on February 28. The general feeling among those I talked to was, how long are they going to wait, they have a warrant and now killed Federal Officers. The important part is you were there and knew the circumstances and based on the best intelligence possible at the time called the play. The world is full of news media and politicians who want to be "Monday Morning Quarterbacks", and who now after the fact know what should have been done. Remember the basics, the incident occurred, and the results thereafter were brought on by David Koresh. Any action or incident no matter how regretful was the result of David Koresh, and his denial to surrender to authority.

I also would like you to know that for what ever Investigator Bob Ricks is or isn't, he handled the news media and himself expertly. He didn't rattle, and he knew who he was, where he was, and what he was doing. If he was your choice for spokesman in this incident, you both did well. Do not let the News Media try to beat you, or your organization up. They have no right to do it, and you have less right to take it. All of your agents that I heard acted compassionate not passive and I admire that.

63-HQ-1050305-447

The one thing that bothered me the most, and it's not your fault, but I would like to see you reenforce. The news media has remarked on several occasions that the A.T.F. bungled the operation and the F.B.I. was brought in to take charge. I do not think that is fair, and it demeans the A.T.F. I think when at all possible you should emphasize that you were brought in as a mutual operation, or because with the death of the Federal Officers the F.B.I. has priority, or how ever you wish to do it so as not to let the public think the A.T.F. are bunglers. This is only an observation, how you decide to handle it if you agree is of course your call.

MAIL ROOM ☒

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MAX 20 1993

Please feel free to express my feelings in this letter to any and all you wish. If possible I would appreciate it if you would express both my congratulations and regrets for their loss, to the A.T.F. Even if Koresh was tipped off shortly before the raid, the element of surprise is still greatest within that time window than it would have been later when he had longer to prepare.

I personally, am tired of the "bad guys" getting more consideration than the "good guys". It is for exactly this type of thing that I left law enforcement. "When you become more afraid of the alleged "good guys" than you do the "bad guys", it's time to go. When "news ink", and political gain, become more life threatening in the long term for you, than an idiot with a gun, something is wrong.

Stand tall and proud Director, you did good, after all, at an estimated 1.5 million dollars a week wasn't he over his credit limit.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

AKA John O. [redacted]

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[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED] 05-01-93

THE HONORABLE JOHN CONYERS  
DEMOCRAT, MICHIGAN  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, DC

[REDACTED]

DEAR SIR:

Waco TX

I WITNESSED YOUR DESPICABLE GRANDSTANDING SHOW OF IGNORANCE REGARDING CULTS AND SECTS WHO THINK THEY ARE CHRISTIAN IN NATURE AND YOUR VERBAL ARROGANT ABUSE OF THE FBI, BATF AND ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES BEFORE THE HOUSE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE ON C-SPAN THE OTHER MORNING.

I AM CERTAIN MANY HUNDRED OF PERSON/HOURS WENT INTO THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE FBI AND THE PERSON WHO ACTUALLY KILLED, IF NOT MURDERED THE INNOCENT CHILDREN, WAS ONE DAVID KORRASH, THE PATHETIC DERANGED CULT LEADER.

I AM NOT OF YOUR LIBERAL LEFT POLITICAL PERSUASION AND ACTUALLY VOTED FOR GEORGE BUSH. HOWEVER, I HAVE FOLLOWED THE APPOINTMENT OF JANET RENO, AS ATTORNEY GENERAL, RATHER CLOSELY ON C-SPAN AND FIND HER HONEST, DEDICATED, SINCERE AND A PERSON OF DEEP RELIGIOUS, EDUCATIONAL AND PRACTICAL THOUGHT.

IT IS MY SINCERE ESTIMATION YOU ARE A RUDE, ARROGANT, SPITEFUL, GRANDSTANDING SEXIST, AND PATHETIC OPINIONATED BASTARD. IT IS YOU WHO SHOULD RESIGN FROM THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND NOT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AS YOU MENTIONED IN YOUR COMMENTS.

I THINK YOU OWE OUR PRESIDENT, THE FBI, THE BATF, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND THE AMERICAN PUBLIC A PUBLIC APOLOGY BEFORE YOUR IMMEDIATE RESIGNATION.

63-HQ-1050305-448

WITH KINDEST PERSONAL REGARDS AND PRAYING GOD'S BLESSING ON YOU, I AM,

63-HQ-1050305

VERY TRULY YOURS,

[REDACTED]

DIRECTOR  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FBI HEADQUARTERS  
WASHINGTON, DC

b6 b7c

cc: PRESIDENT  
DIRECTOR, FBI  
DIRECTOR, BATF  
ATTORNEY GENERAL  
CHAIR, HOUSE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE  
C-SPAN

John P. [REDACTED]

MAILED 31

MAY 20 1993

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MAIL ROOM ☒

ACK 5/19/93

[REDACTED]

① Waco TX

[REDACTED]  
Dear [REDACTED]

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b7c

Dear Director Sessions:

I want to complement you and your agents for the extreme amount of patience and concern shown during 'the Waco stand-off'.

The outcome was, of course, sad, but enough is enough.

I feel your decisions and actions were well founded and just wanted you to know I appreciate the efforts of you and your agents.

Very truly yours, 63-HQ-1050305-449

[REDACTED]

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MAY 2 1993



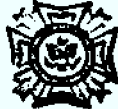
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MAY 20 1993

FBI



V.F.W.



309

G. & E. LINDER POST NO. 8031  
New Hyde Park, New York 11040

21 April 1993

Director Sessions and Jeff Jamar  
F.B.I.  
135 Pinelawn Dr.  
Melville, NY 11747

① Waco TX

Sirs:

Our post stands tall behind the FBI operation, "Waco Texas"

Have a good day.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature block]

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3 V.F.W. Post 8031

Dear [Redacted]

63-HQ-1050305-450

63-HQ-1050305

MAILED 31

MAY 20 1993

FBI

MAIL ROOM

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5/19/93

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OPCA [Redacted]

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

April 21, 1993

309

Dear [redacted]  
Mr. Sessions,

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① Waco TX

I wrote a brief note to agent, Bob Ricks, yesterday and I do so today to you to congratulate you for your conduct in the recent incident in Waco, Texas. The procedure utilized against this rebellion by the Branch Davidians against the laws of God and country was more than just. It seems strange that the ugly media and others do not pay as much tribute to the 4 agents as they do the satanic cultists. 63-HQ-1050395-451

63-HQ-1050305

I thank God for men like you to preserve some sense of decency in this country. May our Lord Jesus Christ bless you.

Sincerely,  
b6 b7c

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City of Warren  
DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

2 29900 CIVIC CENTER BLVD  
✓ WARREN, MICHIGAN 48093



TELEPHONE  
(313) 574-4700

301

① Waco TX

W51/m

April 21, 1993

Mr. William Sessions  
Director Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Sir:

In May of 1992 I recieved a letter from you recognizing my efforts regarding an investigation that was conducted on [REDACTED] This was an operation targeting major dealers of anabolic steroids. I was quite proud of my work during that investigation and even more proud to show my fellow workers and supervisors the letter that I recieved from you.

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As you well know, in law enforcement we are not recognized for a job well done very often. Although it is our job it is nice to recieve a kind word from time to time.

Last night I saw your appearance on the ABC television show NIGHTLINE, with Ted Koppel. I wanted to express my respect and admiration for you and your agents for the way you handled the WACO TEXAS situation. I believe that you answered the questions posed to you both honestly and professionally. Once again I believe you and your agents did the best job that you could have under the circumstances. I believe all law enforcement officers in this country can hold their heads high and be proud to be associated with you and your agents.

Respectfully,

63-HQ-1050305-452

FBI

Warren Police Department

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MAY 20 1993

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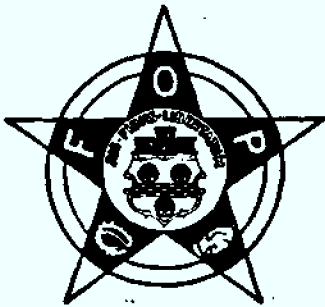
Dear [REDACTED]

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ACK  
DIA [REDACTED]

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OPCAL



4  
5 Jefferson County Sheriff's Department  
FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE, LODGE #64  
6 Post Office Box 1733  
7 Birmingham, Alabama 35201

May 5, 1993

Waco TX

William Sessions, Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Ninth Street & Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20535

Dear Mr. Sessions:

The members of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge 64, realize the authorities at Waco, Texas, were faced with a very unusual and difficult situation.

As law enforcement officers, we know that decisions made in the face of a situation such as this are very complicated and difficult. It is hard to know whether we have done the right thing. We want the agencies involved to know that we understand the pressure they were under and support them in the work they have done.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature block]

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Dear [Redacted]

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OKA

(AIRMAIL)

April 24 1993

Dear Sir,

Dear

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① Walo TX

The visitation of guilt upon the F.B.I. for finally discharging its duty, thereby precipitating the Waco Tragedy, is as mystifying as it is unjust — perhaps equally, Roosevelt should be censured for entering World War II and expediting EVA BRAUN'S Suicide! It, perish forbid, one is to pay homage to "the principle of the thing," where were the critics when the F.B.I. first infiltrated the Waco premises with <sup>62-114507-1050</sup> ~~gunfire~~ in the initial stages of the seige? Indeed, these first steps could equally have enflamed Koresh's proclivities for self-immolation — the Tanks were simply an inevitable final step.

On the contrary the only cause for justified criticism is that the F.B.I. move was not summarily made 51 days before. How long were the Authorities required to pander to the nefarious strictures of a madman ?? It is unconscionable that

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The American Tax payer, who one would imagine would be keen to escape the cost of a mammoth exercise in law enforcement, should actually condemn the unavoidable final recourse taken by a body of authority who, for 51 days had adopted & almost excessively humanitarian principles to produce a solution to an untenable situation.

I can only hope that the majority of Americans inveigh against the illogical and sinusoidal outpourings of these carping few.

Yours sincerely,

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The Director,  
The Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington D.C.  
U.S.A.

310

APRIL 20, 1993

Dear [REDACTED]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
10TH & PENNSYLVANIA AVE. N.W.  
WASHINGTON, DC 20535  
(202) 325-3000

Dear Hardworking Agents:

I have been one of the millions of young adults watching CNN. The most reoccurring news story I've seen is the problems in Waco, Texas. My eyes have been glued to the T.V. These incidents that are going on remind me of the same circumstances in Jamestown.

Yesterday after school I switched on the television to see a moving camera focusing on a blazing fire. After a while I soon learned to my disbelief, about the horrible way people were losing their lives all due to one man's insanity. I can't believe that people really thought he was Jesus like he said. It is sad that people would allow that kind of man to harm innocent children. Children are the future of this country, you did all you could to get this man to give up peacefully so there would be no needless deaths.

Later I heard the press conference. In my opinion there is no need for a further investigation into the actions of the FBI.

I would like to congratulate you all on your brave, daring decision that had to be made while you were already under a lot of pressure.

63-HQ-1050305-455

Sincerely yours:

[REDACTED]  
An Understanding Young Adult

MAILED 31

MAY 20 1993

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Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Department of Justice  
10th & Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.  
Washington, DC  
20535  
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ACK  
5/19/93

Team

[REDACTED]

[Handwritten signature/initials]

Dear J.B.I., A.T.F., Rangers and all concerned,

I feel that you have done an excellent job at the Waco compound. You have put your lives on the line to protect the community. <sup>Waco, TX</sup> Don't feel that anyone should have taken David's side of the issue. If he and his followers were truly Christians, they would have had no need for weapons. My family and friends feel you could have done no more to secure the safety of the followers and their children. My husband is a firefighter/paramedic in Dallas, Texas. I think the ~~decision~~ decision of holding back the firefighting equipment was the right choice for

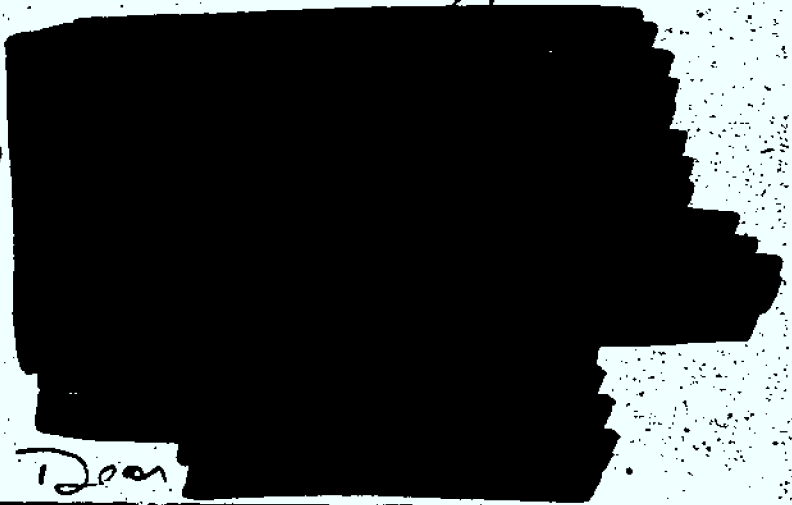
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the safety of everyone. What I'm trying to get across is: you did an excellent job and should not feel bad about anything! You did all you could do!

Thank you for being there to protect us. We really appreciate your hard work.

Sincerely,

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CORRESPONDENCE  
PUBLIC



Attorney General Janet Reno  
Department of Justice  
Washington, DC

April 20, 1993

Dear Ms Reno:

Please let me preface this by saying I have not written like this to a government official before and I do not plan on making this a habit. But your "class" with all the questions and interviews following the tragedy in <sup>ITX</sup>Waco has prompted this letter.

Few of us will ever be faced with a decision as enormous as you, the FBI and President Clinton faced in trying to bring to an end such an evil, deranged standoff. When there are attempts to work with, help, counsel or communicate with an "evil force", the outcome is so uncertain. I applaud and admire you and the others for taking action!!! I feel it is better to be ACTIVE than to have to be REACTIVE!

I encourage you and the FBI to stand firm in your beliefs and statements of what you did was right at that moment in time. We would all like to go back to moments in our lives and change things---we cannot. We must go forward. All the hearings, investigations, questions, second guessings, and stupid questions by the media will not ever change the fact that an "evil force" within an evil leader was behind what happened at Waco.

I am grieved at the loss of the children's lives and have no words of wisdom for you or an understanding of WHY they had to die. But I want you to know that I feel as (I am sure) so many people do---their deaths are not your's, the FBI's or President Clinton's responsibility---they are the evil leader's fault and choice---ALONE!!

You (and the others involved) will be in my thoughts and prayers in the coming days as you answer questions and face second guessings. Please stand firm in your belief in what has been done---that will say volumes.

Thank you for your time and attention to this letter.

Sincerely yours:

FBI Agent Jeff Jamar  
FBI Building  
Washington, DC 20510

cc: President Clinton  
Senator Robert Dole  
FBI Director Sessions  
FBI Agent Ricks  
FBI Agent Jamar

63-HQ-1050305

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April 29, 1993

Dear [REDACTED]

The Honorable Janet Reno  
Attorney General of the United States  
Department of Justice  
Tenth & Constitution Avenue N.W.  
Room 4400  
Washington, D.C. 20530

Mr. William S. Sessions  
Director, FBI  
FBI Headquarters  
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Ms. Reno:

In light of the last few days' events, we felt compelled to write, to lend our support to you and to voice our disappointment for the manner in which our government is handling the Branch Davidian Cult aftermath.

We are not law enforcement specialists, but even we have been able to determine the need for strong intervention in the Waco, Texas situation. Our hearts go out to the innocent children lost in this disaster; however, the adults involved in this cult were dangerous, unpredictable and unyielding, leaving few options for law enforcement officials. We believe they were given more than adequate time to make a decision and act honorably.

Although the situation is a sad and unfortunate one, we believe the government officials served in the best manner possible under the circumstances. We are appalled at Representative John Conyers' Judiciary Committee comments. Our country needs to get on with business and stop the constant recrimination and blame syndrome we seem to be caught up in. The Waco mess was caused by David Koresh and his adult followers - and only them.

Don't give up - there are a lot of us out here rooting for you.

Yours very truly,

[REDACTED]

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FBI

Tom P

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Copies to:

President Bill Clinton  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20530

William S. Sessions  
Director, FBI ✓  
FBI Headquarters  
Washington, D.C. 20535

Senator Barbara Boxer  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Diane Feinstein  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senate Judiciary Committee  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear FBI DWAIT

I know you are taking  
some flack from carrying  
idiots in the public, but

I want you to know  
there are some of us who know  
what happened at WACO.  
was not your fault. Koresh  
broke the law and had to be  
apprehended. There is no question  
in my mind that the Davidians  
set the fire themselves. They  
also could have sent the children  
out but they didn't.  
Koresh got what he de-  
served. 63-HQ-1050305-459

I've got a grandson who is 20  
yrs old and going to Southern  
Conn. State College. His one  
ambition is to eventually join the  
FBI. 63-HQ-1050305  
So you see, most Americans

66  
b7c



Director of the FBI  
Washington, D. C., 20500

April 29, 1993

President Bill Clinton,  
Attorney General Janet Reno,  
FBI Spokesman Bob Ricks:

① Waco TX

Dear Friends:

Some of my friends and I at the apartment complex where I live have been very concerned with the outrageous criticism of the actions taken by you, authorized by you, or approved by you at the Branch Dividian compound in Waco, Texas, on April 19, 1993. We feel the criticisms were unjust! We feel "enough is enough", and after giving them 50 days to come out peacefully and they refused, it was time to take further action on your part. We want you all three to know that we heartily approve of what you did, and that you should feel no blame for what happened afterward; and that they (David Koresh and his misguided followers) were entirely to blame for what followed.

We think you are doing a great job with things in general, President Clinton, Attorney General Janet Reno, Mr. Bob Ricks and the FBI. Please don't feel discouraged, but please just keep up the good work you are doing.

Enclosed is a copy of an article from the editorial page of our local newspaper, The Abilene Reporter-News, dated a few days ago that pretty well sums up our feelings. Actually, there were a couple of comments in this article which we feel were unnecessary, but all in all, it at least puts the blame where it belongs - on David Koresh!

63-HQ-1050305-460

Thank you!

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

[Redacted]

ENCLOSURE

63-HQ-1050305

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5/14/93

[Redacted]

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FBI

# Victims of David Koresh

Edited by Scripps Howard News Service

**I**n retrospect it is easy to say that the decision to end the 51-day standoff at the Branch Davidian

compound in Waco, Texas, was wrong. More than 80 members of the sect — including some 24 children — met fiery deaths Monday when their buildings were set aflame, presumably on orders from the group's fanatical and irresponsible leader David Koresh.

Yet there were solid reasons for action. Attorney General Janet Reno and officers of the Federal Bureau of Investigation considered the alternatives long and hard. The murder of four federal agents who attempted to search the compound for illegal weapons Feb. 28 ruled out walking away.

And seven weeks' negotiation with the mendacious and erratic Koresh had produced nothing

Instead, they responded with volleys of automatic weapon fire — which the FBI did not return. Then at noon sect members set the building alight.

If the attorney general failed to foresee this mass suicide, she also proved her mettle by unequivocally stepping forward to claim responsibility. She has repeatedly answered questions on television and in the press, entirely available to the press. Attempting to correct an earlier impression of slightly hesitating support, President Clinton's press secretary says he backs Ma Reno "1,000 percent."

Investigations of the Waco tragedy are being mounted on all sides. They may well uncover lessons to be learned. It must be remembered, however, that those who died were victims of David Koresh and his mad thirst for apocalyptic — not of law enforcement authorities run amok.

63-HQ-105030S-460  
ENCLOSURE

F.B.I. Director William Sessions  
F.B.I. Building  
Washington, D.C.

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April 28, 1993

Congressman John Conyers  
House Judiciary Committee  
House Building  
Washington, D.C.

WACO TX

Dear Congressman Conyers - Re: Congressional Hearing  
Branch Davidson

Having met you in Atlanta, Ga. at a Black  
Caucus meeting during the Democratic National Convention  
- several years ago, and having met you here in  
Los Angeles on two different occasions I have  
considered you to be a reasonable person. Therefore,  
I must tell you, I was shocked to witness what  
appeared to me to be a personal attack by you  
against Attorney General Janet Reno regarding her  
actions and decisions in the Waco, Texas matter  
during committee hearings today.

I trust that on the next round of questions Ms.  
Reno will ask you "What would you have done?"

I suppose your response and the response of her other  
critics will be a lot of rhetoric and hot air.  
I am sure that almost everyone regrets the death  
of the children and the adults. However I assume you  
are that from the comments I have heard from local  
political leaders and friends - it was time the F.B.I. took some

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action, as important as the culmination of this event was - it had to end. I say that as a liberal Democrat and a reasonable person. Religious cults and religious fanatics are a fact of life. Hopefully this event in Waco, Texas will serve as a wake up call to them and their defenders and followers that their cultist and fanatic activities have limits.

Hindsight is such a great tool for those who wish to criticize. As a matter of fact, in hindsight, did any members of your committee go to Waco, Texas at anytime during the standoff? Did you go? And especially the Congressman from Texas, who asked the "off the wall" question - Did he go? Don't you think, in hindsight, some of you should have gone to Waco? Those members on your committee who are looking for scapegoats should instead be trying to plan and prepare for the next "Waco" - There is little doubt in my mind that there will be another.

Copies To: President Clinton  
Atty Gen Reno  
Cong. Jack Brooks  
Congresswoman Pat Schroeder  
FBI Director Leon S. Galt

Yours truly,

b6  
b7C

To Attorney General Reno - In my opinion your decision in the Waco, Texas matter was the right decision. Remember in this world - so often - you are "damned if you do and you are damned if you don't." There will always be someone trying to take "cheap shots" against you - and in this case also against President Clinton. I suppose some stupid jackass will say President Clinton should have gotten on Air Force I and flown to Waco to personally negotiate with Koresh. I feel that most, vast majority of Americans feel you made the right decision. I think most Americans want from you, your office, and our elected officials fair and just decisions because if a decision is fair and just - it will be the right decision. Good luck & Yours Truly -

b7C

May 3 1993

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WACO TX

Dear Mr. Sessions:

I have just finished reading the Ft. Worth Star Telegram and more specifically, an article with reference to , "your stepping down," and to this I say "BULL." As a retired 73 year old retired businessman- I have had to deal with, the likes of some of your "interregators" and found them to be on EGO TRIPS-ALL MOUTH AND NO SUBSTANCE (like Pat Schroeder) or even worse , "the typical, ill prepared, almost ignorant-black congressman that jumped at Janet Reno. Their publicity driven motives are , to say the least , scandalous and outrageous. "Stick to your guns" and let people like myself tell these people that would like to see you "retire", to tell them to, "GO TO HELL."

I have friends that admirably served the government and they are most honorable and have served our country well and with distinction, as you are doing and we hope , will continue to do.

I have, like so many others, followed the Koresh Fiasco, with great interest and even took time to write to our local paper about this problem. (copy enclosed). A large portion of the Koresh thing was a hey-day for some of the media. This came as a sort of portfolio for the guys I mentioned in my letter to the paper. I truly believe that Koresh felt (erroneously) that millions of people, were in his corner, and that the whole world was against the BATF and the FBI. Between the "SICKOS" in the media, and the equally "SICK" (few) congress and senate folks, we have a difficult time keeping a straight and honorable course. Why not ask those dissidents if Barney Frank, would be their choice to head the FBI? or probably , if you were Black- you would have been receiving accolades instead of criticism.

If there is any consolation , in receiving this letter of support i will find my time very well spent. 63-HQ-1050305-462

Our prayers and full support are with you and your marvelous staff. May God be with you.

63-HQ-1050305

Sincerely,

OPCA

[REDACTED]

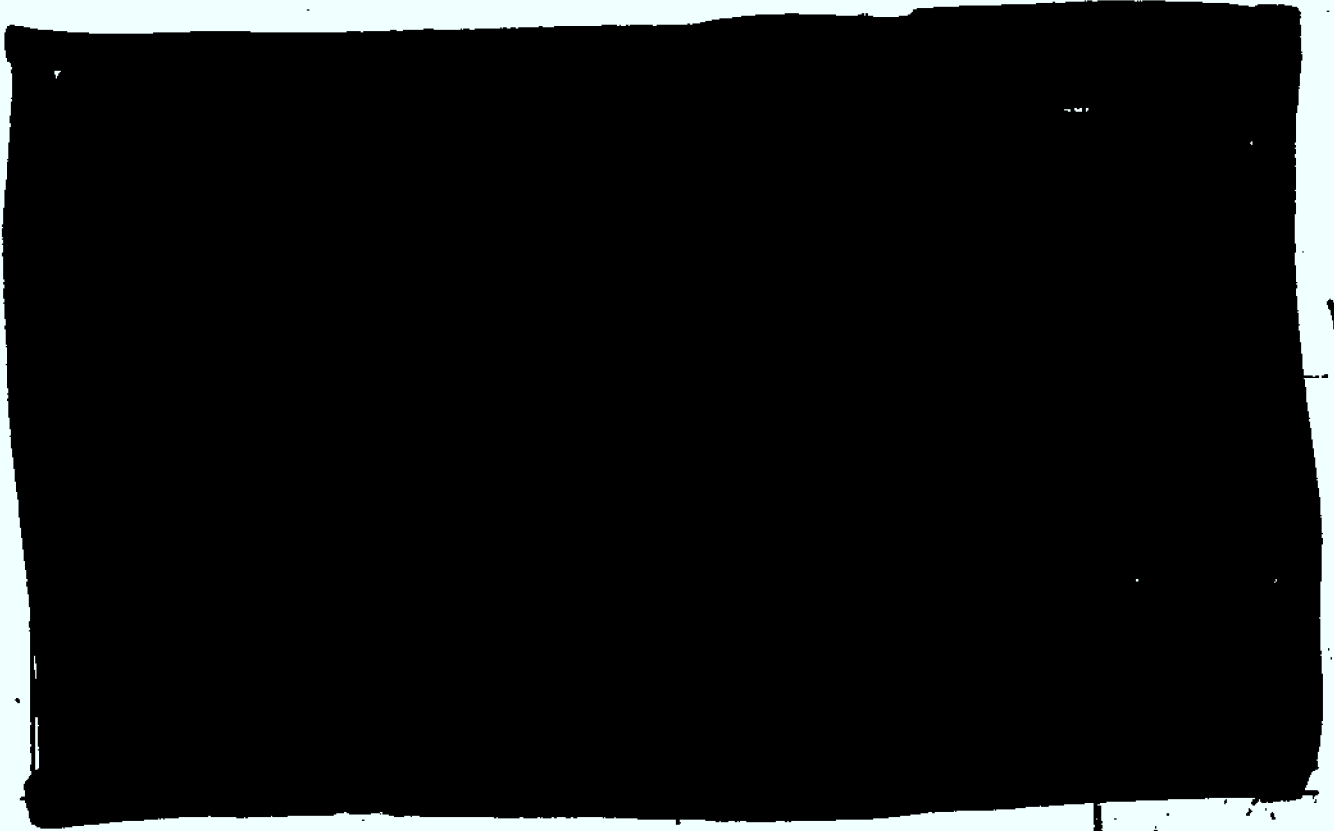
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63-HQ-1050305-462  
ENCLOSURE

A.T.F. <sup>or</sup> ~~offices~~

34.

F.B.I. <sup>or</sup> ~~offices~~

Waco TX

Washington D.C.

I thank that you all did a  
real good job at Waco  
even if you all stay 51 days  
you all might have to have  
stay  
longer

Yours Truly

[REDACTED]

63-HQ-1050305-463

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

FBI

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

63-HQ-1050305

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MAILED 31

MAY 20 1993

[REDACTED] 309  
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Dear [REDACTED]  
DIRECTOR SESSIONS  
JEH FBI BLDG. ROOM 7176  
9TH & PENNSYLVANIA AVE. N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

① Waco TX

Dear Director Sessions:

As one who lives just outside the now infamous city of Waco, Texas I have watched, from the beginning, the events at the Branch Davidian complex unfold. From the first broadcast of the tragedy of the BATF agents on the 28th of February to the shocking end on April 19th, and beyond, I have followed most news reports and press briefings.

This letter is to express my full and complete support for all of the law enforcement agencies involved in this ordeal. I am glad that I will never have to make the kinds of decisions you had to make during those 51 days. I am also glad there is someone who has the courage to make the hard decisions. Vernon Howell (a.k.a. David Koresh) was a deranged individual, made more deranged by the followers he victimized. Those children died because of the choices their parents made. Everyone I've spoken with here agrees with the actions the federal government took on April 19th. As an op-ed piece in the Waco Tribune-Herald of Thursday, April 22nd states "The national news media came in for the final play, oblivious to all that had gone on before. So did the ATF and FBI. Neither knew the game was already over - that all that was left was the final play. ...Now the media are deeply involved in analyzing the final play called by the FBI, as if it really affected the final outcome."

Thanks for being there.

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MAY 20 1993

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5/19/93

2 May 12, 1993

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Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Office of the Director, Director William Sessions  
Ninth Street and Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington D.C. 20537-9700

Dear Director Sessions:

Waco TX

I am a seventh grade student from St. Paul Lutheran School writing to say that I appreciated your concern for the well-being of the cult members. I think you tried your hardest to end the cult standoff in a peaceful way.

I think that you were right to send the gas into the compound. They had plenty of time to just walk out and give up. No one wanted this to end this way.

I appreciate the F.B.I.'s hard work for risking their lives for our safety. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

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63-HQ-1050305

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
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MAY 26 1993

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS  
F.B.I. HEADQUARTERS  
J. EDGAR HOOVER BUILDING  
U.S.A.  
WASHINGTON D.C.  
MAY 2 1993

Waco

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Dear Sir/Madam,

letter  
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I apologize for not knowing your name, this is just a short letter to show support of the F.B.I. actions in Waco Texas. The F.B.I. showed great courage and restraint in dealing with this maniac. He was not a man of God but a very evil possesst person. Showing how evil he was by boobytrapping the building, hoping to take out and kill the officers who tried to enter. 63-HQ-1050305-466

The professionalism of the F.B.I. was called into question by a few newspapers. but not in my eyes. The action was professional and restraint especially after the first day killing of the 3 law officers. People should realize the F.B.I should never be called into disripute, because of the work it does against terrorists and mainiacs. I am able to write this letter 3,500 miles away in a free world.

MAILED 31

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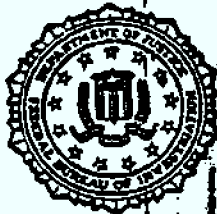
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from  
Pete

ACK  
5/24/93

Once again I applaud the action of the F.B.I. in Waco. 63-HQ-1050305  
Yours sincerely  
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FBI FACSIMILE  
COVERSHEET

## CLASSIFICATION

## PRECEDENCE

- ☐ Immediate  
☐ Priority  
☒ Routine

- ☐ Top Secret  
☐ Secret  
☐ Confidential  
☐ Sensitive  
☒ Unclassified

Time Transmitted: \_\_\_\_\_

Sender's Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Pages: 6To: F.B.I. HQ  
(Name of Office)Date: 5-7-93Facsimile number: (202) 324-6790

Attn: \_\_\_\_\_

(Name)

Room

Telephone No.)

From: N.Y.O.  
(Name of Office)Subject: David Korash;  
Waco Texas incidentSpecial Handling Instructions: 63-HQ-1050305-467

Originator's \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Originator's Facsimile Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

FBI/DOJ

MAY 23 1993

ENCLOSURE

To William Sessions of FBI

I am writing in regards to the stand off in Waco Texas - has now ended with tragedy of loss of lives I have kept up on this story by TV news - newspapers.

I feel all FBI - ATF - military done what they had to all along. The cult people had their nerve to hold this country at Bay - as hostage which was wrong. To threaten people with death was wrong - this was done by Koresh - his followers to all Law Enforcement agencies & to threaten his own followers if they tried to leave Koresh - his members were nothing more than inhuman animals. Koresh - his members were all a basket case - mental case.

I write you because of all illegal weapons - explosives the cult people had & everything that was being done to kids was inhuman - yet Koresh to disgrace God - The Bible

7am 1st

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5/13/93

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63-HQ-1050305  
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ENCLOSURE

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was all in one.

Korek - The cult members would never surrender.

The cult people kept stalling - buying for time - was getting away with it - getting by with it?

something had to be done to stop the standoff from going any further because if something had not of been done the standoff would still remain as it has been - yet it would keep going on for how much longer unknown.

I did contact President Clinton by letter during the standoff - ask him to help end this because I did not want anything to happen to any more people than what had already happen to the 4 agents that were killed.

I feel the FBI - ATF - the military - other law enforcement along with ambulance people - the fire dept done a job well done.

I feel the President - the N. B. attorney general done a fine job.

I thank Dr. President - the N.B. attorney general Janet Reno for help stopping a riot from happening not only in Los Angeles but around the country.

The loss of children's lives in that fire for no apparent reason was innocent victims which should not have been.

I feel sorry for the children who lost their lives in the fire but I don't feel sorry for Kresh - his followers. I feel sorry for the children that are now orphans that was let go from compound.

I hope that all people that have been involved in the standoff clear up til 4/19/93 will be congratulated Recognized - awarded for a job well done even if it did take 51 days.

To end,  
It was my idea to involve the President of the United in this matter due to the reason because of the way things was going - yet the threat of a massive war.

as far as I am concerned David  
Koreak - the cult members were not  
true M. S. Americans - they were  
communist people - Terrorist people  
they deserved what they got - did not  
deserve to live.

I feel the delay in ending the stand  
off was due to the children who was  
still in the compound that had  
not been let go - yet it was getting  
to the point to where they were not  
going to be let go so at that point  
something needed to be done  
hoping the children would be  
set free.

David Koreak - The cult people used  
the kids as shield to hide behind  
to stop attacks from accusing from  
the FBI - ATF - military - yet used  
the compound to hide behind  
to keep from being caught.

I wish the standoff could have  
ended in another way but I guess  
there was no other way for it to end  
I did ask the President to look into  
his matter - to assist in this matter.

because I felt there was no other way  
of going - yet human lives were  
on the line.  
Those children who died in the fire  
were innocent victims who lost  
their lives for no reason at all.  
The standoff was out of control - out  
of hand.

The standoff should not have been  
permitted to go on for 51 but yet it  
should have ended long before this.  
The longer the problem went on it only  
got worse.

This country - The American people  
was threatened during the entire  
problem - yet our national security  
was being threatened.

The issue is here that nothing more  
should ever be permitted to happen  
like this again.

Thank you signed [REDACTED]

Please Respond Dear [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

William Sessions  
Director of the F.B.I.  
9th and Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20535

4/30/93

Dear Director Sessions,

Waco TX

I am a student from St. Thomas High School in Houston, Texas and I would like to thank you for spending time in your busy schedule to visit with Congressman Archer's Intern Group on March 22. I am terribly sorry I could not write you earlier, but I have been very busy catching up on school work and extracurriculars. I am glad that I had a chance to meet you and have our picture taken with you.

It was not until our group was able to meet you, and I saw you at the podium in the same place where I see you hold press conferences on t. v. that I realized I was actually in Washington, D.C. Seeing you up there and talking to us actually struck a chord in me, although it was our third day in Washington. Speaking with you and touring the FBI building impressed me so much I have been thinking of trying to become an agent several years from now after I complete High School and study law as well as other things in college.

I am sorry about the tragic incident in Waco. I know you went Baylor University, thus it must have felt awkward for you. But I believe there is always hope left in preventing these sort of things. And besides to me those innocent children and others are better off in the hands of God than in the hands of some crazed person for the rest of their lives. I support the actions of the FBI and others involved because I believe they must have done everything possible to try and solve the problem.

Once again Thank You and I hope to see you again someday.

Sincerely,

63-HQ-1050305-468

[REDACTED]

WSS

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

EX-111

EX-111

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undated ("typed 5/18/93")

Signed 5/18/93

OPCA

MAY 18 1993

Dear [REDACTED] b6 b7c

I was delighted to have the opportunity to meet with you and the other interns from Congressman Archer's district on March 22nd, and I was particularly pleased to receive your letter relating your experience of our meeting. I am glad to know that you are considering the FBI for a future career, and I am enclosing some material I thought you might find of interest.

I also want to thank you for your support for the FBI in its handling of the siege at the Mount Carmel Compound in Waco, Texas. The FBI relies upon the support of the American people to accomplish its mission, and I appreciate your expression of support.

I wish you the very best in pursuing and attaining your future goals.

Sincerely yours,

William S. Sessions

William S. Sessions  
Director

63-HQ-1050305-469

Enclosures (3)

Face Unique Challenges with the FBI - A Career as a Special Agent  
Non-Agent Positions with the FBI -  
Technical...Specialty...Clerical  
Facts & History

63-HQ-1050305

- SAC, San Antonio (PERSONAL ATTENTION) - Enclosure
- Mr. Coulson - Enclosure, Room 5012
- Mr. Collingwood, Room 7240

NOTE: Above reply requested by the Director. Bufiles checked.

(6)

APPROVED: [REDACTED] b6 b7c

Director	Adm. Servs.	Inspection	Off. of EEO Affs.
Dep. Dir.	Crim. Inv.	Intell.	Off. of Liaison
ADD-Adm.	Crim. Jus. Info.	Laboratory	& Int. Affs.
ADD-Inv.	Servs.	Legal Coun.	Off. of Public
	Ident.	Tech. Servs.	& Cong. Affs.
	Info. Mgmt.	Training	TOM ORL

Dep. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
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& Cong. Affs. \_\_\_\_\_  
TOM Office \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director's Office \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL ROOM ☐

316  
ril 20, 1993

[REDACTED] b6 b7C

Director of F.B.I.  
Tenth and Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.  
Washington D.C. 20535

Dear Director of F.B.I.,

I am writing this letter in response to the tragedy that has recently occurred at the Mount Carmel compound in Waco, Texas. First and foremost I would like to commend you on your decision to finally take action other than negotiations to bring the standoff to an end. It seemed to be clear from the first week that Mr. Koresh had no intention of surrendering peacefully. In my opinion based on this information a date should have been provided to Mr. Koresh in which he either surrendered, or force would be used to remove the people inside from the compound.

Although I'm sorry for the families and the children that were forced to be victims of this situation; I'm appalled at the money wasted to bring it to an end. Based on the low estimates of cost per day to stage this standoff, ten million dollars or greater were spent to protect the lives of approximately ninety people. This amount of money could have saved several thousand people who are innocent victims everyday in society. It could have been used to improve the educational system in the inner city to allow those children the opportunity to receive a worthy education and allow them to be better prepared to serve their community. Another option could have been to provide medical care and vaccines to the people unable to afford it, who as a result die of disease commonly treated successfully

63-1050303-470

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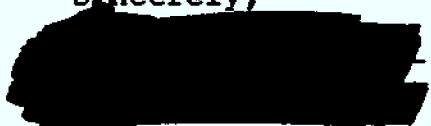
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b7C

OPR/ [REDACTED]  
b6 b7C

in today's medical system. One last option to think about would be to feed and provide vocational training to the homeless so that they can get jobs and contribute more to society.

I hope that in the future if a similar situation must be faced that the cost is further considered, and what the money/time might better be spent on if a resolution does not look probable. In the attempt to save the lives of approximately ninety people, it may have cost the lives of several thousand more.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

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May 24, 1993

[Redacted]

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Dear [Redacted]

Your recent correspondence concerning the former  
standoff in Waco, Texas, has been received. Your interest in  
sharing your views and suggestions with us is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

Michael F. Knapp  
Inspector-Deputy Chief  
Office of Public and  
Congressional Affairs

- 1 - SAC, San Antonio (PERSONAL ATTENTION) - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Collingwood, Room 7240

MAILED 16

MAY 27 1993

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Dep. Dir.	_____
ADD Adm.	_____
ADD Inv.	_____
Asst. Dir.:	_____
Adm. Servs.	_____
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Off. Liaison	_____
& Int. Affs.	_____
Off. of Public	_____
& Cong. Affs.	_____
TOM Office	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director's Office	_____

MAIL ROOM ☐

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63-HQ-1050305

MF

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[REDACTED]

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25 Apr 93

Subj: Cause of Waco Fire?

To: FBI Waco Investigators

Could David <sup>①</sup>Koresh (or an agent) have deliberately placed a burning lamp where it was likely to be knocked over? That way he could get his desired martyrdom, even while evading direct responsibility for it.

(Even if this hypothesis sounds true, you should be careful about presenting it to a skeptical public. Circumstantial evidence, eg traces of flame accelerants, would be useful.)

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

63-HQ-1050305-472

FBI  
Washington DC 20535  
26 APR 1993

63-HQ-1050305

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5/24/93

[REDACTED]

MAIL ROOM

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[REDACTED]

May 24, 1993

[REDACTED]

b6  
b7c

Dear [REDACTED]

Your recent correspondence concerning the former  
standoff in <sup>W</sup>Waco, Texas, has been received. Your interest in  
sharing your thoughts with us is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Michael F. Knapp  
Inspector-Deputy Chief  
Office of Public and  
Congressional Affairs

- 1 - SAC, San Antonio - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Collingwood, Room 7240

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63-HQ-1050305

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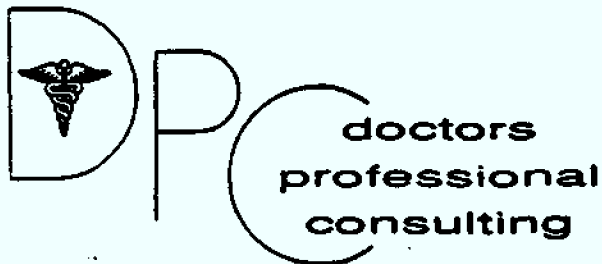
MAIL ROOM ☒

- Dep. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_
- ADD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_
- ADD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Asst. Dir.:
- Adm. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_
- Crim. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- CJIS \_\_\_\_\_
- Ident. \_\_\_\_\_
- Info. Mgmt. \_\_\_\_\_
- Insp. \_\_\_\_\_
- Intell. \_\_\_\_\_
- Lab. \_\_\_\_\_
- Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_
- Tech. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_
- Training \_\_\_\_\_
- Off. of EEOA \_\_\_\_\_
- Off. of Liaison \_\_\_\_\_
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- Off. of Cong. Affs. \_\_\_\_\_
- Off. of \_\_\_\_\_
- Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Director's Office \_\_\_\_\_

MAILED 16

MAY 24 1993

FBI



April 21, 1993

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Department of Justice  
Washington DC

In explaining the response of your agents in the Waco affair through several media sources you have stated that your advisors gave you the universal opinion that the cult leader in all likelihood would not be considering a suicide act.

I am certain you need to seek out new and better advisors. Having served on a suicide hot line the senario would lead me and many other experienced advisors to an opposite opinion. I would have predicted the exact outcome. Unfortunately, your outstanding organization and your superiors are made to look incompetent.

Respectfully yours -

[Redacted signature block]

63-HQ-1050305-474

b6  
b7C  
Op  
[Redacted]

b6  
b7C

[Redacted]

K  
4/22

May 24, 1993

[REDACTED] b6 b7C  
Dear [REDACTED]

Your recent correspondence concerning the former  
standoff in <sup>P</sup>Waco, Texas, has been received. Your interest in  
sharing your views and suggestions with us is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

*151*  
Michael F. Knapp  
Inspector-Deputy Chief  
Office of Public and  
Congressional Affairs

- 1 - SAC, San Antonio (PERSONAL ATTENTION) - Enclosure  
1 - Mr. Collingwood, Room 7240

[REDACTED] (5)

Dep. Dir.	_____
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ADD Inv.	_____
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Director's Office	_____

MAIL ROOM ☐

63-HQ-1050305-475

63-HQ-1050305

b6 b7C [REDACTED]

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b7C

31

April 26, 1993

Dear [redacted]

TO: President Clinton; Justice Dept. Ms. Reno; F.B.I. Mr. Sessions; Sen. Spector; and Congr. Ms. Schroeder

Mr. President:

Please let the three departments that were present in Waco, Texas pursue their work, without interference by Congressional hearings and investigations. The wasting of time and taxpayers money could be better spent. Let us not have another Iran/Contra Walsh investigation that has cost \$38 million dollars to date. For what?

The blaming of the F.B.I. and /or Ms Reno is idiotic. Blame the psycopath Koresh for Waco. Maybe an executive order would be sufficient to shut down any further waste by Congress.

Let us get bacck to the fiscal problems of our country. If you want an idealic four years and total respect by the people of our country, I would suggest that you start with:-

1. Cut 25% across the board for all of Washington personel and departments.
2. Eliminate all foreign aid. Lets spend that money home.
3. Freeze all government borrowing for at least two years.
4. Stop all grants except for health research.
5. Make welfare-- workfare. Even unemployment insurance should be tied to some performance. Your job program could be similar to the old W.P.A.. I got \$3.00 per day for pick and shovel work to earn that money. It was not mailed to me.. I had to leave three years of medical college.
6. Lastly, do not commit U.S. forces except on a partnership with U.N. and NATO . Be different LISTEN to the people.

63-HQ-1050305-476

Sincerely

[redacted]

[redacted]

b6  
b7C

b6  
b7C

Federal Bureau of Inv.  
Mr. Sessions  
10<sup>th</sup> and Pennsylvania Ave  
N.W., Washington, D.C.

20535

63-HQ-1050305

310

May 24, 1993

[REDACTED]

b6  
b7c

Dear [REDACTED]

Your recent correspondence concerning the former  
standoff in Waco, Texas, has been received. Your interest in  
sharing your views and suggestions with us is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

15/  
Michael F. Knapp  
Inspector-Deputy Chief  
Office of Public and  
Congressional Affairs

- 1 - SAC, San Antonio (PERSONAL ATTENTION) - Enclosure  
1 - Mr. Collingwood, Room 7240

MAY 24 1993

MAILED 16

FBI

[REDACTED] (5)

63-HQ-1050305-477

b6 b7c 63-N9-1050305

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ADD Inv.	_____
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& Cong. Affs.	_____
TOM Office	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director's Office	_____

MAIL ROOM

MR [REDACTED]

b6  
b7c  
part [REDACTED]

March 25/1993.

Mr. William Sessions,  
FBI Director  
Washington, D.C.

b6 b7C

Sir:

Waco Tx

I am eighty-six years of age, and have  
seen the FBI rise to the top, but today  
I am wondering after the tragedy at  
Waco just what it is at this time.

I hope you can answer some of my questions.  
In the first place, why did we get in-  
volved with this cult when there are  
many more as large or larger than this  
one decaying around the country?

Did the FBI get involved after the awful  
charge of the ATF and the loss of life?  
Then we were fed propaganda such as;  
Karnak was in charge of kitchen, seen ex-  
posed of false, also the great amount  
of fire arms etc in the compound, but  
the ATF didn't prove there during the fire.  
Then the new attorney general who knew  
very little about it said go in; She  
said children murdered, but you at the  
same time said there was no proof.

I am hurt that this happened because I  
believe it could have been settled without  
the tragedy, and are the taxpayers wronged  
here had a different feeling. Truly,  
the ATF and FBI, 63-HQ-1050305-478

ACIC  
5/104/43

b6  
b7C

63-HQ-1050305-478

May 24, 1993

[REDACTED] b6 b7c  
Dear [REDACTED]

Your recent communication about the unfortunate ending to the standoff with the Branch Davidians in Waco, Texas, has been referred to me for reply. We appreciate your interest in sharing your views and observations with us.

The FBI became involved in the situation in Waco following the killing of 4 Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Agents, a violation of Federal law that falls within our investigative responsibility. Our trained negotiators worked very hard and made every effort to bring this standoff to a peaceful resolution without any further loss of lives. The events of April 19th were tragic for everyone involved--those who lost their lives, their families and friends, and the dedicated law enforcement officers who spent a considerable amount of time away from their families in unselfish service to our country.

Thank you for writing.

Sincerely yours,

Michael F. Knapp  
Inspector-Deputy Chief  
Office of Public and  
Congressional Affairs

- 1 - SAC, San Antonio (PERSONAL ATTENTION) - Enclosure  
1 - Mr. Collingwood, Room 7240

63-HQ-1050305-479

(5)

b6 b7c 63-HQ-1050305

NF [REDACTED] b6 b7c

b6 b7c [REDACTED]

MAIL ROOM (7)

Dep. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Adm. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_  
Crim. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Cong. Affs. \_\_\_\_\_  
Off. of \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director's Office \_\_\_\_\_

b6  
b7c [REDACTED]

To whom it may concern,

My name is [REDACTED] I'm an 18 year old senior deeply concerned about the actions taken against the people in Waco, Texas. Upon a normal discussion held in class about global affairs this subject became very controversial. I suppose one highly debated reason prompted this heated discussion. Students wondered why they were bothered in the first place, and what had they done in order for them to recieve so much attention from the media and the press?

Upon reading an article in the L.A. Times these people were classified as a cult. Why? How do you go about putting down the line that distinguishes between a cult and a religious group. I understand that this type of open ended question isn't always easy to answer because of the many different aspects and actions that one could make to be classified in either catagory. Therefore any answer would make me most grateful.

Thank you for taking the time and consideration to read my letter. Your responses will be greatly appreciated, looking forward to hearing from you soon!

63-HQ-150305-480  
b6  
b7c  
Sincerely, [REDACTED]

1ck  
124/93  
[REDACTED]  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
9th St. and Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.  
Washington D.C. 90535  
[REDACTED]

May 24, 1993

Dear [REDACTED]

I have received your recent letter concerning the situation involving the Branch Davidians in Waco, Texas, and I appreciate the opportunity to address your questions and concerns.

Although the Branch Davidians have been classified by the media as a cult, the Federal Government's interest in David Koresh and his followers was not based on his religious teachings but on information which came to the attention of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Department of the Treasury, that Mr. Koresh and his followers had violated Federal firearms statutes.

The FBI, which is an investigative arm of the Department of Justice, initiated an investigation following the killings of four Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Agents, and the wounding of numerous other Federal Agents. Killing or assaulting a Federal Officer falls within our investigative responsibility. Our trained negotiators worked very hard and made every effort to bring this standoff to a peaceful resolution without any further loss of lives. The events of April 19th were tragic for everyone involved--those who lost their lives, their families and friends, and the dedicated law enforcement officers who spent a considerable amount of time away from their families in unselfish service to our country.

I hope I have addressed your questions and concerns to your satisfaction.

Sincerely yours,

Michael F. Knapp  
Inspector-Deputy Chief  
Office of Public and  
Congressional Affairs

Dep. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
ADD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
ADD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir.: \_\_\_\_\_  
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& Cong. Affs. \_\_\_\_\_  
TQM Office \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director's Office \_\_\_\_\_

1 - SAC, San Antonio - Enclosure  
1 - Mr. Collingwood, Room 7240

(5)

63-HQ-1050305-481  
63-HQ-1050305

STATE OF MARYLAND  
WILLIAM DONALD SCHAEFER, Governor

GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ADVISORY COUNCIL  
MARSHALL M. MEYER, Chairman

PLEASE REPLY TO: 301 West Preston Street • Baltimore, MD 21201 [ ]

STATE: Phone (410) 225-4800 [ ] • FAX (410) 333-6059 [ ]

HOME: Phone (410) 323-4480 [ ] • FAX (410) 433-4972 [ ] • Phone/FAX (410) 524-3019 [ ]

APRIL 22, 1993

TIME SENSITIVE  
URGENT

JUDGE WILLIAM SESSIONS  
DIRECTOR  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONS  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

DEAR JUDGE SESSIONS:

THE DISTORTED MINUTE BY MINUTE PRESS/MEDIA FLASH REPORTS ARE SERIOUSLY AND ADVERSELY AFFECTING THE IMAGE AND REPUTATION OF THE FBI AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL. THE CREDIBILITY OF THESE AGENCIES ARE NOW QUESTIONABLE SINCE NO TWO MEDIA SOURCES ARE PROVIDING CONSISTENT INFORMATION. YOU ARE ALREADY AWARE OF THIS SITUATION.

WHY NOT IMMEDIATELY INITIATE A SET-UP WITH A PRESS SPOKESMAN - NEWS CONFERENCES - WRITTEN RELEASES - SIMILAR TO THE PROCEDURE USED BY THE MILITARY IN DESERT STORM.

I STRONGLY SUGGEST SOME ACTION BE TAKEN, BEFORE ALL CREDIBILITY IS LOST.

SINCERELY YOURS,

*Marshall M. Meyer*  
MARSHALL M. MEYER

ENCL: FACTS ABOUT THE COUNCIL

1-ENCLOSURE

63-HQ 1050305-482

66 b7c

# GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ADVISORY COUNCIL

## EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, STATE OF MARYLAND

WILLIAM DONALD SCHAEFER  
GOVERNOR

MARSHALL M. MEYER  
CHAIRMAN

## FACTS ABOUT THE COUNCIL

THE GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ADVISORY COUNCIL IS A DIVERSIFIED PROJECT-ORIENTED GROUP OF MEN AND WOMEN, ACTIVE AND RETIRED, DEDICATED TO SERVING THEIR STATE AND NATION.

FORMED IN FEBRUARY, 1988 UNDER EXECUTIVE ORDER, TO SERVE GOVERNOR WILLIAM DONALD SCHAEFER, HIS STAFF AND DEPARTMENT HEADS AND THROUGH THEM THE CITIZENS OF MARYLAND, THE COUNCIL HAS GROWN INTO A GROUP OF OVER 250 SENIOR BUSINESS EXECUTIVES, EDUCATORS, ENGINEERS, SCIENTISTS, DOCTORS, LAWYERS, SPECIALISTS IN MANY DISCIPLINES, FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PROFESSIONALS AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE OFFICIALS AND CONCERNED CITIZENS. EACH IS AN UNPAID VOLUNTEER GIVING THEIR TIME AND PERSONAL RESOURCES.

MANY PROJECTS ARE ONGOING AND ONCE A STUDY OR RESEARCH EFFORT HAS BEEN COMPLETED A REPORT IS RENDERED TO THE GOVERNOR AND APPROPRIATE STATE, FEDERAL, AND LOCAL OFFICIALS. THE GROUP THEN MOVES ON TO OTHER ACTIVITIES. SOME CURRENTLY INCLUDE:

- SELECT PANELS EXAMINING DANGEROUS SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND ITS MANY RAMIFICATIONS AFFECTING OUR CITIZENS. SPECIAL EMPHASIS IS GIVEN TO EDUCATION, ADOLESCENT ALCOHOLISM, DRUGS IN THE WORK PLACE, AND MEDICAL AND PUBLIC AWARENESS.
- AN IN DEPTH STUDY ON "VIOLENCE IN AMERICA" AND HOW IT AFFECTS MARYLANDERS. AN EXAMINATION SEEKING ANSWERS TO A MOST SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR OUR NATION.
- A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL INVOLVEMENT IN THE CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM'S "BOOT CAMP" PROGRAM. ONE OF THE NATION'S BEST.
- THE COUNCIL "LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY" SUB-PANEL REVIEWS LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND COORDINATES WITH OUTSIDE PUBLIC SAFETY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE GROUPS. ASSURES THAT THE NEEDS OF MARYLAND CITIZENS ARE BEING ADDRESSED. ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE REQUIRED TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW AND EFFECTIVE LEGISLATION.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

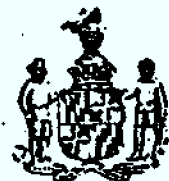
Dedicated to keeping Maryland a better and safer  
place to live, work and do business!

Baltimore Office - 301 W. Preston Street, Baltimore MD 21201  
(410) 225-4800

Fax (410) 333-6059

(OVER)

ENCLOSURE



- A SELECT PANEL IS CURRENTLY EXAMINING, UNDER THE GOVERNOR'S DIRECTION, "INSURANCE FRAUD" IN COORDINATION WITH THE STATE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER. THIS IS A SERIOUS GROWING AREA OF PUBLIC CONCERN. THE STUDY PANEL IS SEEKING THE BEST LEGISLATIVE APPROACH TO REDUCE THIS COSTLY PROBLEM. A FRAUD BUREAU HAS BEEN FORMED BY GOVERNOR SCHAEFER BASED ON COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS.
- THE GOVERNOR, DEEPLY CONCERNED WITH THE SAFETY OF MARYLAND CITIZENS, HAS ISSUED AN EXECUTIVE ORDER FORMING A HIGH-LEVEL CAR-JACKING "COMMISSION" DEDICATED TO THE EXAMINATION OF "VEHICLE THEFT" AND RELATED CRIME AND CRIMINAL ASSAULTS AGAINST PERSONS VISITING PUBLIC ACCESS AREAS WHERE PEOPLE ARE VULNERABLE TO ASSAULT.
- THE COUNCIL HAS PUBLISHED A WIDELY ACCLAIMED BOOKLET, "WHAT IF", IDENTIFYING THE DANGERS OF LEGALIZATION OR DECRIMINALIZATION OF DRUGS AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF WHAT COULD HAPPEN IF THIS IDEA WAS ADOPTED. THIS BOOKLET IS IN ITS SECOND PRINTING AND IS A REFERENCE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE LIBRARY.
- AN IMPORTANT REFERENCE ON THE "IMPACT OF CRIME ON BUSINESS IN MARYLAND" HAS BEEN DEVELOPED. WHAT THE SMALL TO MEDIUM BUSINESS OWNER SHOULD DO TO AVOID INTERNAL THEFT IS NOW IN PUBLICATION.
- "IN BRIEF," THE COUNCILS' SPONSORED NEWSLETTER OF SPECIAL ISSUES IS REACHING THOUSANDS OF POLICY MAKERS IN GOVERNMENT, PUBLIC SAFETY, CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND MAJOR BUSINESS LEADERS IDENTIFYING AREAS OF NATIONAL AND LOCAL CONCERN.
- THE COUNCIL HAS MANY NON-PUBLIC SAFETY ACTIVITIES. JUST ONE INCLUDES A GROUP OF KNOWLEDGEABLE BUSINESS EXECUTIVES WHO ACT IN AN ADVISORY CAPACITY TO THE SECRETARY "DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION." OTHER DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES ARE SUPPORTED BY INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP ASSIGNMENTS.

GOVERNOR WILLIAM DONALD SCHAEFER HAS STATED HIS CONCERNS THAT "EVERY CRIMINAL ACT IS AN EVENT IN HISTORY THAT AFFECTS ALL OF OUR RESIDENTS, INCREASES COST FOR GOVERNMENT, DIMINISHES EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS AND AFFECTS THE WELL-BEING OF EVERYONE IN OUR STATE AND NATION. . ."

THE CITIZENS OF MARYLAND ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN COUNCIL ACTIVITIES BY PROVIDING IDEAS, SUGGESTIONS AND SUPPORT.

THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY IS ENCOURAGED TO EXAMINE THEIR SAFETY AND SECURITY CONCERNS AND TO CALL ON THE COUNCIL FOR ASSISTANCE TO ASSURE THAT EVERY MARYLANDER ENJOYS THE FREEDOM FROM FEAR TO WHICH THEY ARE ENTITLED.

GEAC-ATC-R/1/93-1

(OVER)

311  
May 24, 1993

Mr. Marshall M. Meyer  
Chairman  
Governor's Executive Advisory Council  
State of Maryland  
301 West Preston Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Dear Mr. Meyer:

Director Sessions asked me to respond to your April 22nd communication and to thank you for your concern and suggestions about the media coverage of the standoff with the Branch Davidians in Waco, Texas.

The FBI made every effort to provide accurate information throughout the standoff and served as the lead agency in the dissemination of facts to the public. We did hold regular press briefings; however, this incident was one of the most media-intensive events ever, with 24-hour coverage, and the various outlets used information and tapes from the briefings in different ways. I know that since the tragic ending there has been much speculation and "Monday morning quarterbacking," which seems to come with every event that has been constantly in the public eye. Freedom of the press permits these "quarterbacks" to speculate and disclose information from alleged "credible sources;" however, as we and others examine our actions in the days and months to come, I believe we will see that, given all the circumstances, the FBI's actions were reasonable and responsible.

Once again I want to thank you for your concern and interest in writing and sharing your thoughts and suggestions with us.

Sincerely yours,

151  
Charles E. Mandigo  
Legislative Counsel  
Office of Public and  
Congressional Affairs

MAILED 25

MAY 25 1993

FBI

Dep. Dir.	_____
ADD Adm.	_____
ADD Inv.	_____
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Crim. Inv.	1
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Off. Liaison & Int. Affs.	_____
Off. of Public & Cong. Affs.	_____
TOM Office	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director's Office	_____

- 1 - SAC, San Antonio - Enclosure
- 1 - SAC, Baltimore - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Collingwood, Room 7240
- 1 - [REDACTED] Room 7222

NOTE: Bufiles reflect prior cordial correspondence with Mr. MEYER. Reply discussed with SSA [REDACTED] Media Services Unit, OPCA.

MAIL ROOM (2)

66 b7C 63-HQ-1050305-483  
b6 b7C 63-HQ-1050305

b6  
b7C

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, DC 20530  
Attention: Director

[REDACTED] b6  
b7C

April 29, 1993

U.S. Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, DC 20530  
Attention: Director

Dear Sir:

I am writing to make some suggestions concerning the resolution of situations like the Waco "Rancho Apocalypse" inferno and surveillance of other religious cult activities.

First, I question the Constitutionality of sequestering children under age 10 in cults, whose "bylaws" are deemed bizarre or extremely inconsistent with the sociological environment of average Americans. (I realize that some of this concept is not within your purview.)

Second, child welfare authorities and local law enforcement agencies in areas where religious cults reside should conduct at least annual, routine investigations of these cults to determine if all state and federal laws are being complied with relative to the possession of life threatening materials. (An OSHA-style walk-through). Further, these cults should be prohibited from maintaining arsenals, and ~~all~~ <sup>none</sup> of their firearms should ~~not~~ <sup>be</sup> easily convertible to weapons declared statutorily illegal. The care of all children under age 10 should be closely scrutinized using a wide range of criteria: sanitation, healthful diet, and overall welfare of the children under the economic circumstances of the cult being reviewed. Also, there should be no doubt that these children desire to live as they are living. Special intelligence techniques should be employed to substantiate all claims of these cults. All requests from children in these cults should receive special attention under a standing court order.

But my main purpose for writing is to recommend a procedure that could save many lives in barricaded situations, especially in rural settings like Waco, Jonestown, Idaho, and other such cases.

You could name my idea The Chopper-Tank Operation.

I recommend that quick action be of the essence for all such attacks on cult encampments. Never allow more than a week to pass before the matter is resolved lest the media become part of the problem.

In Waco, I believe that once two or three tanks had arrived on the scene along with as many helicopters, a device consisting of three heavy-duty (high tensile strength) grappling hooks with 25-lb, compact weights attached to 3,500' wire cables

63-HQ-1050305-484

OK  
b6  
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5/24/93  
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b7C

1/2

strategically dropped, or launched by harpoon-~~gun~~-like guns, from helicopters and later towed by tanks to remove the rooves from, say three, buildings simultaneously. Once these rooves had been removed--with possible complete collapses of some of these structures--capturing the personnel inside would have been easy.

The injury to personnel both inside and outside the buildings would have been minimal.

I realize that hindsight is always 20/20. But there appears to be a pattern of failing to take immediate action ~~even~~ in all ~~of~~ such cases reported by the media.

I believe that the ATF and the FBI have the initial advantage in such encounters because the perpetrators don't have any idea of how these agents will ~~act~~. Once the perpetrators are given time to strategize, "the ball game" takes on different rules.

My general "rule of thumb" in all barricaded/hostage cases, except perhaps airborne cases, is to USE IMMEDIATE FORCE before the perpetrators can establish a defense. (Do you think the current techniques would have worked during the Capone era ?)

I would appreciate knowing your views of my views, and I am looking forward to your response.

b6  
b7C

Sincerely,

P.S. All organisms are inherently oriented toward survival. No matter what you hear from "think tanks", if every airplane hijacker were shot to death as soon as he was removed from the airplane -- right on the tarmac -- we would observe an end to all such events. Believe it or not!

How many Soviet Union aircraft have been hijacked? . . .

Remember how docile Moamar Gadaffi became after our uninvited visit, when we had a leader in the White House?

May 24, 1993

[REDACTED]  
Dear [REDACTED]

Your recent correspondence concerning the former  
standoff in Waco, Texas, has been received. Your interest in  
sharing your views and suggestions with us is appreciated. I  
will see that they are passed along to our Hostage Rescue Team.

Sincerely yours,

*MFK* [REDACTED]  
Michael F. Knapp  
Inspector-Deputy Chief  
Office of Public and  
Congressional Affairs

- 1 - SAC, San Antonio - Enclosure  
1 - Mr. Collingwood - (Room 7240)  
1 - [REDACTED] Enclosure  
Quantico

(6)

63-HQ-1050305-485

63 HQ-1050225

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b7C

b6  
b7C  
[REDACTED]

MAIL ROOM

4/20/93

Mr. Ted Sessions,

I want to congratulate  
you for your stand on the  
ABC Special: <sup>TX</sup> ~~Woes~~ "Time To Die",  
April 20, 1993.

You refused to discuss tactics  
used there. Good!

I think too much is aired  
about law-enforcement  
especially about the FBI.

I could never understand  
why people tell the enemy  
the moves they plan to take.

My husband and I were glad  
to hear you decline comments  
to Peter Jennings.

News media causes a lot of  
trouble. - You are good,  
Thank you for being there.

OPRA

b6

b7c

Mr. Ted Sessions

Director FBI

Washington, D.C. 20535

9 DIRECTOR

Open by 5/25/93

63-HQ-1050305  
63-HQ-1050305-486

ACK  
5/25/93

MAIL ROOM

May 25, 1993

[REDACTED] b6  
b7C

Dear [REDACTED]

Director Sessions asked me to respond to your recent letter to him and extend his sincere thanks for your support of his handling of the questions posed to him on the April 20th ABC television special concerning the siege at the Mount Carmel Compound in Waco, Texas.

The FBI relies on the support of the American people for what it does, and we appreciate your expression of that support.

Sincerely yours, b6  
b7C

*MFK* [REDACTED]  
Michael F. Knapp  
Inspector-Deputy Chief  
Office of Public and  
Congressional Affairs

- 1 - SAC, San Antonio - Enclosure  
1 - Mr. Collingwood, Room 7240

[REDACTED] (5)  
[REDACTED]

63-HQ-1050305-487

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**NIGHT WIND**  
**SILENT WIND**

20 April 1993

Director, FBI  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
9th and Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20535

Dear Mr. Director:

I have been appalled by the press conferences on the Waco apocalypse. The press have appeared to be stupid uncouth pariahs while generally the FBI personnel have appeared to be polite and patient. I was particularly dismayed by two reporters, both of some stature (until then), who persisted in trying to talk at the same time at the President's news conference on the Waco deaths showing a lack of respect for each other, for the president and for the viewers.

The purpose of this letter is to give you an interpretation of this phenomena often putting law enforcement personnel in a *no-win* situation with the press. Perhaps my analysis may be of some value to members of the FBI, particularly spokespersons, because similar future encounters with the press will be almost unavoidable.

Let me also say that although I try to exclude them, some of my biases may slip in. I have taught courses on violence and terrorism at the University of Kansas with a local police chief and I have known several FBI agents and other police personnel over the years, none as close friends but well enough to be impressed by their quality and openness to ideas.

Two classes of events continuously impinge upon our lives. The first class are those familiar to everyone. They are the ones that occurs around us. They are *local events*. In Waco, Texas the local events were such things as negotiations with Koresh and the refusal of cult members to leave the compound. Then there are those things that are part of larger dynamics on our planet. These are *macro events*. Examples of such macro events would be the IRA developing relationships with Libya or Iran sponsoring training camps for diverse sets of terrorists.

And herein lies the trouble with the press. The press has been **TRAINED** to report on local events and when there are no easily reported ones they may even essentially manufacture them by demanding answers to highly specific and often irrelevant questions. Part of this orientation comes from the fact that reporters are trained to think at a grade school level (literally) so that viewers or readers will not find what they say to be confusing. This is why so many reporters so often ask for *specific* pieces of information because specific pieces of information are understandable by the generally poorly educated audience to which they are communicating. Requesting *specific* pieces of information is an effort to make their jobs easier, *not necessarily to get closer to the truth.*

But while the press can focus completely on local events (*they only write one story at a time*), the FBI **MUST BE** concerned with a broader perspective. The FBI must be, for example, concerned about additional terrorist attacks by terrorists as well as additional hostage situations that can arise. The FBI does not have the luxury, as do *members* of the press, of being *exclusively* focused on one situation at a time. Its domain is the entire nation and the factors that could create trends or change conditions in part of the nation. For example, since there is a lot of sympathy of American blacks with South African blacks, a major escalation of violence in South Africa could spark contagious acts in the United States. Such a possible diffusion of violence must be monitored.

There are, of course, responsible members of the media but the reporter often has to work for a special organization like *The Wall Street Journal* or the *MacNeil/Lehrer Report* who appeal to sophisticated readers or viewers to have a career based on responsible reporting.

Thus, in a sense the FBI and the press are talking past each other, the press essentially wanting to report a story that will help their career by appealing to a generally unsophisticated audience while the FBI must maintain a sophisticated concern with macro events and conditions that could affect the entire nation.

My suggestion is that FBI spokespersons place issues in a broader context, a *macro context*, as often as feasible. Not only is this a more appropriate context for responding to questions, since a responsible person making decisions in a particular setting *must* consider *both* factors within that situation and those from outside that could impinge upon it, but it would frustrate reporters who want to distort situations (by focusing *exclusively* on local events). If there were fewer distortions produced by obsessively narrow foci, then FBI spokespersons could explain total strategies (when security would not be compromised) and possibly reduce unjustified criticisms (of which there were many following the Waco fire). Obviously, the press will strenuously object. They will call it stonewalling. They will call it a cover up. But if these charges can be avoided, you may be able to avoid the distortions that reporters more interested in a story than the truth create. This is similar to the advice I received before I went on some talk shows. I was told that if rude questions were asked, for example, I should smile pleasantly and say nothing. Since dead time during a television interview is deadly the interviewer would go on to other topics.

It is important to remember that *many reporters are more interested in a story than in getting at the truth*. This is particularly true in times when many organizations are downsizing and jobs are much less secure than in the time of Robert Murrow. And a story usually consists of describing local events to which the typical unsophisticated reader or viewer can relate. In this sense, *the more intelligent FBI agents become the more the media may press them on SPECIFIC DETAILS and criticize them on SPECIFIC DETAILS because that is the only way they can generate a story acceptable to a largely unsophisticated audience.*

Sincerely yours,



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b7c

May 25, 1993

[REDACTED]  
Dear [REDACTED]

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Thank you for writing and sharing with the FBI your thoughts and observations about the press conferences held concerning the standoff with the Branch Davidians in Waco, Texas. We appreciate your generosity in furnishing us your analysis for possible use in handling future press conferences. You may be sure your letter will be passed along to our Media Services personnel.

Sincerely yours,

MK [REDACTED] b6  
b7C

Michael F. Knapp  
Inspector-Deputy Chief  
Office of Public and  
Congressional Affairs

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Telephone Rm \_\_\_\_\_  
Director's Office \_\_\_\_\_
- 1 - SAC, San Antonio - Enclosure  
1 - Mr. Collingwood, Room 7240  
1 - [REDACTED] Room 7222 - Enclosure

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April 21, 1993

F.B.I.  
9th Street  
Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.  
Washington D.C. 20539

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a senior at Paramount High School. We are having a discussion of the tragic ending of the cult in Waco, Texas. There are some factors about the incident that we don't understand. I would really appreciate it if you would clarify it for me.

First I would like to know why the Branch dividiens were called a cult and not a religion. I would like to know what the difference is between these two groups. We tried to figure it out, but we couldn't reach an agreement.

Second I would like to know why the F.B.I. was involved and when did you get involved. Did the cult commit a crime? I don't remember how things got started, so could you please inform me.

Thankyou for considering my requests. You could send the information to the address above or call me at [REDACTED] I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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63-HQ 1050305-490

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May 24, 1993

[REDACTED] b6 b7c

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing in response to your letter to the FBI asking questions about the standoff situation involving the Branch Davidians in Waco, Texas.

You asked the difference between a cult and a religion. According to the Third College Edition of Webster's New World Dictionary, the word "cult" refers to "a system of religious worship or ritual, a quasi-religious group, often living in a colony, with a charismatic leader who indoctrinates members with unorthodox or extremist views, practices, or beliefs...."

Although the Branch Davidians have been classified by the media as a cult, the Federal Government's interest in David Koresh and his followers was not based on his religious teachings, but on information which came to the attention of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Department of the Treasury, that Mr. Koresh and his followers had violated Federal firearms statutes. On February 28th, four Agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms were killed and sixteen were injured in a shootout that occurred when they attempted to execute an arrest warrant for Koresh and a search warrant at the Branch Davidian compound.

Shortly thereafter, the FBI, which is an investigative arm of the Department of Justice, initiated an investigation as killing or assaulting a Federal Officer falls within our investigative responsibility. Our trained negotiators worked very hard and made every effort to bring this standoff to a peaceful

1 - SAC, San Antonio - Enclosure  
1 - Mr. Collingwood, Room 7240

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resolution without any further loss of lives. The events of April 19th were tragic for everyone involved--those who lost their lives, their families and friends, and the dedicated law enforcement officers who spent a considerable amount of time away from their families in unselfish service to our country.

I hope that I have adequately addressed your questions and those of your classmates.

Sincerely yours,

MFK/[REDACTED]

Michael F. Knapp  
Inspector-Deputy Chief  
Office of Public and  
Congressional Affairs

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[REDACTED]

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April 20, 1993

FBI  
10 St. Pinnsylvania Ave.  
N.W Washington D.C 20535

Dear, FBI

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My name is [REDACTED] I'm a 18 year old student at Paramount High School. Me and my classmates were discusing the mass suicide, in Waco Texas. I heard that these people set themselves on fire when you intented to go in to their farm near Waco.

The FBI refered to this group as a "cult". We did not understand what you ment by this term. We would like to know the difference in between a cult and a religion. We also did not know why the group was surrounded by the FBI.

Thank you for your the time you spent on my letter. I will be sharing your response, with my classmates.

Sincerly,

[REDACTED]

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CPONI [REDACTED]  
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[REDACTED]

316

May 24, 1993

[Redacted]

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Dear [Redacted]

I am writing in response to your letter to the FBI asking questions about the standoff situation involving the Branch Davidians in Waco, Texas.

You asked the difference between a cult and a religion. According to the Third College Edition of Webster's New World Dictionary, the word "cult" refers to "a system of religious worship or ritual, a quasi-religious group, often living in a colony, with a charismatic leader who indoctrinates members with unorthodox or extremist views, practices, or beliefs...."

Although the Branch Davidians have been classified by the media as a cult, the Federal Government's interest in David Koresh and his followers was not based on his religious teachings but on information which came to the attention of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Department of the Treasury, that Mr. Koresh and his followers had violated Federal firearms statutes. On February 28th, four Agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms were killed and sixteen were injured in a shootout that occurred when they attempted to execute an arrest warrant for Koresh and a search warrant at the Branch Davidian compound.

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- 1 - SAC, San Antonio - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Collingwood, Room 7240

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resolution without any further loss of lives. The events of April 19th were tragic for everyone involved--those who lost their lives, their families and friends, and the dedicated law enforcement officers who spent a considerable amount of time away from their families in unselfish service to our country.

I hope that this information adequately addresses your questions and those of your classmates.

Sincerely yours,

MFID [REDACTED] b6  
b7c  
Michael F. Knapp  
Inspector-Deputy Chief  
Office of Public and  
Congressional Affairs

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23 April 1993

In Floyd Clarke  
Deputy Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington DC

Dear Sir,

Re: Recent Siege WACO, Texas.

Forgive me for taking this liberty of writing to you. Through the medium of Satellite television we are fortunate enough to receive American news programmes, ABC - CNN etc, in our country. And followed the WACO Siege these past weeks with some interest, as we have never known anything on that scale over here.

I think that when the Siege began all those weeks ago, it was rather obvious that the episode would sadly end in tragedy, and as the weeks wore on it became plain that negotiations by your Agents were fruitless, and that David Koresh wanted a confrontation, violence, and undoubtedly, loss of life on both sides, obvious too, that he had such intense control over the cult followers, that these people would have followed him to hell itself without question.

**ENCLOSURE**  
And now, after the event, I think it's very unfair that your agents come under criticism, it's very easy for anyone with the luxury of hindsight, to find fault, and of course offer the perfect answers & the 'easy solutions', but I doubt if there is a man alive who would have handled places with Special Agent Jeff Jamar during these past weeks, when he did a very difficult job under extremely frustrating conditions, and must have had to have made some very difficult judgement calls, not an enviable task. I have nothing but admiration for your officers, who through a very frustrating time behaved so professionally, demonstrating their discipline and their dedication under pressure. Sad, that in an event like this children had to suffer, and it makes one wonder what kind of people these cult members were, to take

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innocent children in such a volatile environment.  
Whenever there is a tragedy of this proportion, there is always  
this terrible thing of laying blame, and hope that when the all the  
investigations are complete your bureau will remain unscathed.

Very good wish,

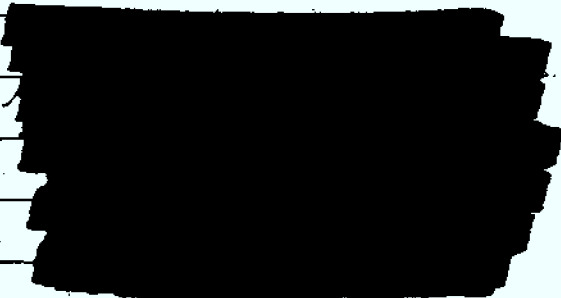


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An aërogramme should not contain any enclosure



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Name and address of sender

Mr F. J. Clark  
Director, FBI Bureau of Investigation  
F.R.I. Logan Hoover Bldg  
Washington D.C.  
U.S.A.



Aerogramme

International

Royal Mail



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[REDACTED] b6 b7C [REDACTED]  
23 April 1993

Mr. Floyd Clarke  
Deputy Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, DC

Dear Sir,

Re: Recent Siege - Waco, Texas

Forgive me for taking this liberty of writing to you. Through the medium of satellite television we are fortunate enough, to receive American news programs, ABC - CNN etc, in our country. And followed the WACO siege these past weeks with some interest, as we have never known anything on that scale over here.

I think that when the siege began all those weeks ago, it was rather obvious that the episode would sadly end in tragedy, and as the weeks wore on it became plain that negotiations by your agents were fruitless, and that David Koresh wanted a confrontation, violence, and undoubtedly, loss of life on both sides, obvious too, that he had such intense control over the cult followers, that these people would have followed him to hell itself without question.

And now, after the event, I think it's very unfair that your agents come under criticism, it's very easy for anyone with the luxury of hindsight, to find fault, and of course offer the perfect answers and the 'easy solutions', but I doubt if there is a man alive who would have traded places with Special Agent Jeff Jamar during these past weeks, when he did a very difficult job under extremely frustrating conditions, and must have had to have made some very difficult judgement calls, not an enviable task.

I have nothing but admiration for your officers, who though a very frustrating time behaved so professionally, demonstrating their discipline and their dedication under pressure.

Sad, that in an event like this children had to suffer, and it makes one wonder what kind of people these cult members were, to take innocent children into such a volatile environment. When-ever there is a tragedy of this proportion, there is always this terrible thing of laying blame, and I hope that when all the investigations are complete your bureau will remain unscathed.

Every good wish,  
[REDACTED] b6 b7C

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ENCLOSURE

3.  
May 11, 1993

[REDACTED]  
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Dear [REDACTED]

It was very encouraging to receive your letter of April 23, 1993. We in the FBI are fortunate to have had support, not only in our own country but from individuals like you from around the world, for our actions in attempting to bring the siege in Waco, Texas, to a peaceful conclusion.

Your insightful comments are very much appreciated, as the FBI, along with representatives from the Department of Justice and the U.S. Congress, is attempting to sort out the tragic events of April 19, 1993.

The executives at FBI Headquarters are especially proud of all of the individuals in Waco who assisted in this effort to end the siege. We are especially proud of all of the FBI personnel who spent in excess of seven weeks committed to this difficult endeavor under the extremely capable leadership of Special Agents in Charge Jeff Jamar, Bob Ricks, Dick Swensen and Dick Schwein. If hard work and dedication to duty were the only ingredients to resolve the Branch Davidian standoff, then the FBI would have succeeded easily in achieving that goal. Dedicated leadership was also demonstrated by executives and supervisors at FBI Headquarters. Our Assistant Director in Charge of Criminal Investigations, Larry Potts, was tireless in the execution of his duties during the 51-day standoff.

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1 - SAC Jeffrey J. Jamar (Enclosure)  
1 - SAC Bob A. Ricks (Enclosure)  
1 - SAC Richard S. Swensen (Enclosure)  
1 - SAC Richard D. Schwein (Enclosure)  
1 - AD Larry Potts (Enclosure)  
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APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge

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G. Long, Asst. \_\_\_\_\_  
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The FBI is very appreciative of people like you who recognize the sincere effort put forth by our organization and who take the time to provide us the benefit of their thoughts.

Again thank you very much for your letter and best of luck to you and yours.

Sincerely,

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Floyd I. Clarke

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Director's Office	

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[REDACTED]

March 17, 1993

254-30  
21-6012

William J. Sessions, Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
J. Edgar Hoover Building  
Washington, DC 20535

Dear Mr. Sessions:

I am writing to inquire about an aspect of the FBI's ongoing project at Waco, Texas. I am under the impression that some personnel from the FBI came into the Avis car rental agency in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex and rented a number of cadillacs, for use in the Waco area.

My question to you, sir, is what is the justification for these personnel to rent these large luxury style vehicles, as opposed to renting the sub-compact or compact cars that are normally authorized to be rented by government personnel? I realize, if this did happen, that these personnel may have needed larger vehicles, but did they need cadillacs?

I heard that there were some complaints by customers of Avis, that had actually made reservations for cadillacs and when they showed up to get the vehicles, they were told they were not available because they had been rented to the FBI.

I am just concerned, in our tough economic times of today, that the government agencies are not out misusing taxpayer's money or using it needlessly.

This information came to me as a third party. Therefore, I cannot attest to its accuracy. But, I am a concerned citizen and, if this did occur, and was not fully justified, I think it bears looking into.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

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ack  
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[REDACTED]

April 12, 1993

Dear [REDACTED]

Your March 17th letter to Director Sessions concerning allegations that FBI personnel have rented large luxury automobiles for use during the hostage situation in Waco, Texas, has been received. We appreciate your giving us an opportunity to explain our policy regarding the rental of automobiles.

I want to assure you that the FBI makes every effort to rent the most economical cars available that will fit our needs. If Cadillacs were rented, it was done only because no other vehicles were available at the time. There was, however, no rental of Cadillacs en masse.

Sincerely yours,

131  
Danny O. Coulson  
Deputy Assistant Director  
Criminal Investigative Division

- 1 - SAC, San Antonio (PERSONAL ATTENTION) (89B-SA-38851) -  
Enclosure

- 1 - Mr. Coulson (Room 5012)  
1 - Mr. Evans (Room 5042)

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NOTE: This response has been coordinated with SSA [REDACTED]  
Violent Crimes Unit, CID.

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APPROVED:

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Director's Office

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Telephone Rm.

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& Cong. Affs.

TQM Office

Telephone Rm.

Director's Office

31  
April 11, 1993

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The Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Room 6555  
The J. Edgar Hoover Building,  
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Officers,

The backwards plight of Mr. David Karesh, alias, Jesus Christ, and now, Jahwey, or Jahwah, or JAWH, goes back to animal sacrifice, where a goat was tortured by every conceivable sin of the Jews of that Old Testament time, and then sent and driven deep into the forest ..... known as a Scapegoat ..... and, now, I perceive that Mr. David Karesh is forced to find a Scapegoat ..... and he has certainly loaded and unloaded his problems on you, in the line of fire, and on every concerned mind.

So, he is blaming you, and you are "expendable" if he can manipulate the Outcome ..... "Outcome Education" is in the same time-frame.

You may feel very lonely, as people tend to run, run, run, from the opportunity to be a Scapegoat, or "Whipping Boy" in senatorial language.

The Outcome Education Parents and Teachers, should be explored at this time to ascertain their true motives, as they would enforce their God on the government, while schooling themselves in a questionable religion, that determines a cult.

Thank you and Good Luck and God Bless you for your lonely vigil.

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USAAC WWII  
Honorable Discharge and Good Conduct Medal  
Terms: Unconditional Surrender from Evil Forces.

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The Federal Bureau of Investigation  
The J. Edgar Hoover Building  
Room 6555  
18th and Penn Streets  
Washington, D.C. 20525

May 17, 1993

[REDACTED] b6 b7C  
Dear [REDACTED]

Your correspondence concerning the former standoff at the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas, has been received. Your interest in sharing your views and suggestions with us is appreciated.

Our trained negotiators were, regrettably, unable to convince David Koresh to bring this situation to a peaceful resolution without further loss of life. The events of April 19th were indeed tragic for everyone involved, including the dedicated men and women in law enforcement who worked hard to preclude this tragedy.

Sincerely yours,

15  
Michael F. Knapp  
Inspector-Deputy Chief  
Office of Public and  
Congressional Affairs

- 1 - SAC, San Antonio - Enclosure  
1 - Mr. Collingwood - (Room 7240)  
1 - Mr. Coulson - (Room 5012) - Enclosure

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Dep. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
ADD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Asst. Dir.:  
Adm. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_  
Crim. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
CJIS \_\_\_\_\_  
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& Cong. Affs. \_\_\_\_\_  
TOM Office \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director's Office \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL ROOM ☐

63-HQ-1050305-499

b6 b7C

311

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Deputy Director  
Lloyd Clark  
Washington, DC.

Dear Deputy Director Clark,

I want you to know that  
I support your decision re-  
garding the crisis at Waco, Texas.  
Ignore the news media - they  
do not represent the majority  
of hard working, law abiding  
citizens who are glad ~~that~~ you  
are there to make these  
difficult decisions for them.

Keep up the good work  
Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

b6  
b7c

63-HQ-1050305-500

311  
52

May 14, 1993

b6  
b7c

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your recent letter. It is very gratifying for us in the FBI to know we have support from the citizens of this country concerning the way we do our job. Our mission is to investigate violations of Federal crime which have a direct impact upon the American people. When we hear from people like you who take the time to let us know that they appreciate the job the FBI is doing, it means a great deal.

As you can imagine, every effort was made by the FBI to bring the siege at the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas, to a peaceful conclusion. The FBI personnel on scene at Waco and at FBI Headquarters worked tirelessly for 51 days to resolve this crisis. The review of our performance and critique of our efforts are parts of the job that we in the FBI willingly accept. However, it is very reassuring and comforting to know that the people we are serving, the citizens of the United States, do believe that we are making every effort to serve them in the best manner possible.

Thank you again for your kind and reassuring words and best of luck to you and yours.

Sincerely,

IS/

Floyd I. Clarke

63 HQ-1050305-501

FBI

MAY 17 1993

MAILED 30

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Copies Distributed 57493

- Dep. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_
  - Asst. Dir.:
  - Adm. Serv. \_\_\_\_\_
  - Crim. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
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  - Off. of Public Affs. \_\_\_\_\_
  - Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_
  - Director's Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_
- SAG Jeffrey J. Jamar (Enclosure)
- SAC Bob A. Ricks (Enclosure)
- SAC Richard S. Swensen (Enclosure)
- SAC Richard D. Schwein (Enclosure)
- AD Larry Potts (Enclosure)
- (6)

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MAIL ROOM

*[Handwritten signatures and initials]*

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b7c

May 1, 1993

MR. FLOYD CLARKE  
JEH FBI BLDG. ROOM 7142  
9TH & PENNSYLVANIA AVE. N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

Dear Mr. Clarke:

As one who lives just outside the now infamous city of Waco, Texas I have watched, from the beginning, the events at the Branch Davidian complex unfold. From the first broadcast of the tragedy of the BATF agents on the 28th of February to the shocking end on April 19th, and beyond, I have followed most news reports and press briefings.

This letter is to express my full and complete support for all of the law enforcement agencies involved in this ordeal. I am glad that I will never have to make the kinds of decisions you had to make during those 51 days. I am also glad there is someone who has the courage to make the hard decisions. Vernon Howell (a.k.a. David Koresh) was a deranged individual, made more deranged by the followers he victimized. Those children died because of the choices their parents made. Everyone I've spoken with here agrees with the actions the federal government took on April 19th. As an op-ed piece in the Waco Tribune-Herald of Thursday, April 22nd states "The national news media came in for the final play, oblivious to all that had gone on before. So did the ATF and FBI. Neither knew the game was already over - that all that was left was the final play. ...Now the media are deeply involved in analyzing the final play called by the FBI, as if it really affected the final outcome."

Thanks for being there.

63-110-1050305-502

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321

May 14, 1993

[Redacted]

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b7c

OWALCO TX

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your supportive letter of May 1, 1993. The events of February 28, and April 19, 1993, will be long remembered by all Americans, but particularly by those in law enforcement who were directly involved in the siege at Waco, Texas. The decisions made from February 28 through April 19, 1993, have been reviewed and analyzed by the media and will continue to be reviewed and analyzed by members of Congress, and certainly by all of us in the FBI and other Federal law enforcement agencies. It is however, very reassuring to receive letters such as yours that espouse the support from the American people for whom we work.

As a citizen of Texas who lives within the Waco area, you certainly were effected by the tragedy at the Branch Davidian compound. Receiving a letter from someone like you who had virtually a first-hand look at the events occurring in Waco, means a great deal to the FBI.

Again thank you very much for your kind thoughts and thank you for taking the time to prepare a letter articulating your support for us in the FBI. It is very much appreciated.

Best of luck to you and yours.

Sincerely,

151

63-HQ-1050305-503

Floyd I. Clarke

MAILED 30

MAY 17 1993

FBI

- Dep. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_
- ADD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_
- ADD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Asst. Dir.:
- Adm. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_
- Crim. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
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- Off. of Public Affs. \_\_\_\_\_
- Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Director's Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

- SAC Jeffrey J. Jamar (Enclosure)
- SAC Bob A. Ricks (Enclosure)
- SAC Richard S. Swensen (Enclosure)
- SAC Richard D. Schwein (Enclosure)
- AD Larry Potts (Enclosure)

(6)

APPROVED:

Director \_\_\_\_\_

Dep. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_

Asst. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_

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Spec. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_

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Off. of Tech. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_

Off. of Training \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL ROOM

4/5/4

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[REDACTED]

March 11, 1993

Director of Operations  
Bureau Alcohol, Firearms  
and Tobacco  
Treasury Department  
Washington, DC.

Director of Operations  
Federal Bureau of  
Investigation  
Justice Department  
Washington, DC.

Gentlemen:

As you stand at the crossroads of the Waco stalemate, you face a "Win/No Win" situation, and Conservative/Liberal criticism of your operation.

As each day passes, you are coming closer to the time GOD will speak to Koresh. "The day has arrived for Davidians to know the end of the earth is here". Now you are looking at another Jamestown.

Unfortunately your expertise deals with weapons of death - Guns, Tanks, Explosives.

There is another solution that has been used since the time of Jericho. Any 17 year old can affirm this. The answer; high decibel intensity directional control SOUND.

With the assistance of a directional sound engineer, you would assemble mobil sound batteries with their own generators. This would have to be accomplished in the utmost secrecy with a total news media blackout. The units would be trucked in complete camouflage and placed in the early evening.

Sound transmission to commence at 10 PM and continue for one hour, then shut down for one hour. I would suggest loud and wild gospel songs. This sound creation must be of decibel intensity to break windows. At midnite you would re-initiate the activity with, perhaps, a wild Banshee scream or the 1812 overture, followed by "Hard Rock" music.

63-HQ-1050805-504

High intensity sounds interrupts the thought process and totally disrupts any sleeping possibilities. These multiple units would have to be moved frequently to deter being fired upon, from the compound.

I am sure you have the building plans of the compound and know where windows and intake air vents are located. In daylight hours smoke bombs and be used to

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[REDACTED]

Davidians - Waco  
Page 2

block their vision and foul their air.

You probably say "what a nutty idea." But as you count and remove the bodies, you may again say, "wonder if this could have worked"?

Respectfully yours

[REDACTED]  
Citizen

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b7c

b6 b7C

Dear [REDACTED]

Mr. Sessions

I am deeply disturbed by what I have seen and heard regarding the tactics used by the F.B.I.

The use of lights and chanting monks (have you no respect for things which are sacred?) as well as the amplified audio portions of the slaughter of rabbits are techniques which are ungodly and completely unacceptable to civilized human beings. What did you imagine to gain by such techniques except to further cast yourselves into the demonic light in which those you were opposing had already placed you?

Did you imagine a group of religious fanatics would turn themselves and their children over to their demonic counterparts? You played right into their hands.

63-HQ-1050305-506

Our nation is ALREADY BESIEGED by religious fanatics and your efforts only confirmed everybody's worst dreams.

63-HQ-1050305

Police have psychological problems, of this I have no doubt, but to encourage such activities as this can only result in the further distortion of the psychological capacity of all policemen to be able to distinguish between what is acceptable

MAIL ROOM (YES... EVEN FOR POLICE) and what

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b7C

can NEVER BE ACCEPTABLE to a civilization that expects to hold itself above acts of barbarism. These acts were bizarre and any who approve of such things may be nearly as sick as those whom (as police!) they were trying to protect society from.

Who will protect us from you!?

I am sending letters. You are just one of many whose names will be mentioned in these letters. I am writing to newspapers and to the offices of a full array of public officials.

As an American I am ashamed of the press our country receives world wide. I don't know whether I am more distressed about these religious fanatics or about the actions of the agencies whose duty it was to peaceably resolve the situation. It was a bad gamble Mr. Sessions. You should have sought better advice. Your agency has lost whatever little respect it had. Please ..... no more circuses!!!

How in God's name do I explain such things to my children? Where does the "darkness" extend and the light begin? Sincerely

b6

b7C

324

4-25-93

Dear Bureau: —

I support your handling of the  
Owaco mess.

Don't give in to the Monday  
morning quarterback. They did not  
have to make the tough decision.

Keep up the good work. OPA

✓  
JPH

Sincerely,

63-HQ-1050305

Dear

63HQ-1050305-507

From

and

From

b6

b7C

MAILED 16

MAY 26 1993

FBI

from Pro

ACK  
5/24/93

Department

b6  
b7C

April 19, 1993

324

William Sessions  
Director of the FBI  
Federal Bureau of Investigations  
Washington, DC

OWACO TX

Dear Mr. Sessions,

How can you be proud of a government which allows its agents to  
gas children who are already suffering from sleep deprivation. Your  
head is not on straight. I hereby demand your immediate resignation.

Very truly yours,

MAILED 16

MAY 26 1993

FBI

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form  
con

Dear

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[redacted]

62-HQ-1050305

62-HQ-1050305-508

William Sessions Director  
FBI  
Washington DC

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[redacted]

b6  
b7C  
4-24-93

324

To the F.B.I., OMAHA TX

I am deeply grieved because  
of the Holocaust at the Branch  
Davidian Church in Texas. The  
common people are wondering who  
will be next. Twisting what David  
Karek would quote from the Bible  
to intimidate and humiliate was  
repulsive.

b6  
b7C

Dear

63-HQ-1050505-509

MAILED 16

MAY 26 1993

FE

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
10th and Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20535

b6 - b7C

70m  
cm

MAIL ROOM ☒

63-HQ-1050305

2 [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Waco [REDACTED]

324

May 11, 1993

Mr. William S. Sessions, Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington DC 20535

Dear Director Sessions:

My schedule doesn't always permit me to respond to current events in a timely manner. As a private citizen, I nonetheless feel, timely or not, it is important to voice my support of the FBI's handling of the Waco, Texas tragedy.

The lives of the young people who died in Waco had already been committed (by themselves or sadly, by others). To me its just another reminder of how important it is to stay close to your family and try to be the best parent and role model you can be for today's youth.

Sincerely,

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[REDACTED]

63-HQ-1050305-510

Dear [REDACTED]

63-HQ-1050305

MAILED 16

MAY 26 1993

FBI

From  
Pao

ACK  
5/24/93

✓ [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

310

April 22, 1993

Director William Sessions  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Sessions,

*Waco TX*

Just had to write you and express my appreciation to you and your personnel. It is only too often we see headlines vilifying the find job you do. It appears we as American's have gotten to the point where we ask you to do the hardest and ugliest tasks and if successful others take credit and if unsuccessful we give you the blame.

I believe the Waco incident showed the extraordinary patience your people possess.

Please share my appreciation to your people for exemplary efforts.

Respectfully,

[Redacted Signature]

*63-HQ-1050305-511*

cc: President W. Clinton

*b6  
b7C*

*ACK  
Unclated (Typed 5-14-93)*

[Redacted]

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAY 11 1993

*OPEN*  
[Redacted]

*b6  
b7C*

*Signed 5/19/93*

310

MAY 19 1993

Dear [REDACTED]

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b7C

Thank you for your April 22nd letter of support for the FBI in its handling of the siege at the Mount Carmel Compound in Waco, Texas.

The FBI relies upon the strong support of the American people for what it does, and I appreciate your expression of that support and your sharing it with President Clinton as well.

Sincerely yours,

William S. Sessions

William S. Sessions  
Director

- 1 FBI SAC, San Antonio (PERSONAL ATTENTION) - Enclosure  
1 Mr. Collingwood, Room 7240

NOTE: Reply requested by the Director. Bufiles checked.

63-HQ-1050305-512

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Dep. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
ADD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
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& Cong. Affs. \_\_\_\_\_  
TQM Office \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director's Office \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED: [REDACTED]

Director [REDACTED]	Adm. Servs. _____	Inspection _____	Off. of EEO Affs. _____
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ADD-Inv. _____	Servs. _____	Legal Coun. _____	Off. of Public _____
	Ident. _____	Tech. Servs. _____	& Cong. Affs. _____
	Info Mgmt. _____	Training _____	TQM Off. _____

MAIL ROOM

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b7C

From: Office of Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation  
 To: Official Indicated Below

*3/19*

Mr. Glavin ☒ *3/19*  
 Mr. Kennedy ☒  
 Mr. Clegg ☒  
 Mr. Glavin ☒  
 Mr. Bayse ☒  
 Mr. Birney ☒  
 Mr. Christensen ☒  
 Mr. Daniels ☒  
 Mr. Davis ☒  
 Mr. Gilbert ☒  
 Mr. Hicks ☒  
 Mr. Pomeroy ☒  
 Mr. Potts ☒  
 Mr. York ☒  
 Mr. Coffey ☒  
 Mr. Gurnea ☒  
 Mr. Perez ☒ *3/19/63*

*b6 b7C*

*USS 3/18*

See me ☐  
 Note and return ☐  
 Prepare reply and return for my signature ☐  
 Please handle ☐  
 Respond over your signature ☐  
 For information ☒  
 For your recommendation ☐  
 What are the facts? ☐  
 Hold ☐

Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

310



DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY  
BU BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20226

MAR 15 1993

Honorable William S. Sessions  
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, DC 20535

Dear Bill:

Thanks for taking the time to express <sup>TX</sup> your sympathy and concern following the tragedy in Waco. At times like these we're fortunately able to lay aside some of the petty jealousies and come together as a law enforcement family.

I'm especially appreciative of the willingness of your HRT to respond so quickly and professionally, and I know we all hope for a peaceful resolution. I'll also be anxious to hear what the eligibility requirements might be for the trust funds you mentioned.

Again, Bill thanks for caring, and I'll share your condolences with all the men and women of ATF and the families of those we lost.

Sincerely yours,

*Allen Higgins*  
Director

USS  
3/18

63-HQ-1050305-513

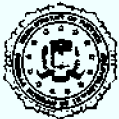
MAR 18 1993

RECEIVED

DEPT. OF JUSTICE

MAR 12 1993

RECEIVED



U.S. Department of Justice

310

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535

Michael F. Knapp  
Office of Public Affairs  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D.C. 20535

May 5, 1993

Dear [REDACTED]

Your recent communication about the unfortunate ending to the standoff with the Branch Davidians in Waco, Texas, has been referred to me for reply. We appreciate your interest in sharing your views and observations with us.

All of us in the FBI share your anguish over the needless loss of life, both Agents and Davidians. Unfortunately, our trained negotiators were unable to convince David Koresh to bring this situation to a peaceful resolution. The events of April 19th were tragic for everyone involved--those who lost their lives, their families and friends, and the dedicated law enforcement officers who have spent time away from their families in unselfish service to our country. As we examine our efforts in the days and months to come, I believe it will be clear that, given the circumstances, the actions taken by law enforcement were responsible and reasonable.

A well written letter. But wrong. None of these people were ever tried and convicted of a crime. You attacked them violently. You fired first. We trapped them and surrounded them with snipers - not a great inducement to come out. You then drove them insane with psy-war techniques. Then you attacked them with tanks, trapped the people upstairs, knocked over lamps, started a fire and burned them alive. These people were harming no one. They did not deserve to die. None of them. But for insane, ego-driven 'John Wayne' federal behavior, no one, including ATF agents, would have died. You caused this all. All.

Sincerely yours,

Michael F. Knapp  
Inspector-Deputy Chief  
Office of Public and  
Congressional Affairs



To: DIRECTOR of the FBI, WILLIAM SESSIONS 310

Tuesday, May 11, 1993 Blade-Citizen B-7

b6  
b7C

no more wiretaps  
no more phone taps  
no more bugs  
no more entrapment  
no more raids  
no more "We believe  
these people have  
done evil things."  
We want facts, not  
faith

Waco holocaust

Waco TX

Editor:

I watched, spellbound, on April 19 as FBI agents in National Guard rent-a-tanks used battering rams and noxious chemicals on a religious ghetto in Waco, Texas. The ghetto had been surrounded with coils of razor wire to assure that no one could get out, except to surrender to the authorities in order to be placed in a government camp where they would be shackled hand and foot for being a "material witness." When the chemicals failed, a converted tank with a bulldozer drove into a building repeatedly. It is easy to see how kerosene lamps and propane tanks could have been knocked over.

In 10 minutes, the facility was engulfed in flames, together with the 95 men, women and children inside. It took only about 45 minutes for the entire complex to burn to the ground. It took only about 30 minutes for the Justice Department to issue a press release that the ghetto residents had started the fire themselves. Incredible. "Uncredible." The last object to fall slowly to the ground was the ancient flag of the Israelites and their famous King David.

As the bureaucracy performed public opinion damage control, CNN switched to its "World News" program where I watched the anniversary of the uprising of Jews in the Polish ghetto in World War II. In this piece, I saw Nazi storm troopers besieging a religious cult by barricading them in with razor wire and then, finally, tearing down the buildings and burning them out. I watched for the second time, frozen in a macabre *deja vu*, as the flickering black-and-white films showed the flag of King David slowly falling into the flames.

And I asked myself, what's the difference?

MARY SZTERPAKIEWICZ  
Escondido

Was this Waco or was  
this Philly? Was  
Dick Thornburgh  
still in charge?

MAILED  
MAY 26  
FBI

[Redacted]

b6 b7C

[Redacted]

RECEIVED ROOM 1

62-149-1050305

Dear  
May 13, 1993

Dear Director Sessions:

You know and we know "you can't fool all of the people all of the time."

Comments like those in the letter above may not yet be reaching you in your ivory tower, but you know and we know who the killers were in Waco.

If you retain your position through this mis-managed assault and through the switch to a Democratic administration, perhaps you will have the integrity to return the FBI to the law-abiding agency it should be.

COPY to Pres. Clinton

Sincerely  
[Redacted]

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b7C

310

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4.22.93

William Sessions, Director FBI  
Dept. of Justice  
Washington, D.C.

Dear William Sessions:

I know you were in a hard place over the decision to break into the compound at Waco. TX  
I'm certain that you regret that decision even more than the average intelligent citizen who is farther removed from it.

But . . . I have considerable fear that decisions of that type are all too common in the United States today. Beyond Jonestown and Libya, Waco reflects back onto Vietnam, Panama, the Gulf War and forward to Israel, the Palestinians, Bosnia, and what is euphemistically known in Los Angeles as "the uprising." So I feel I must write to you and ask you to seriously reconsider what factors motivate decisions like these.

United States, as a matter of policy, both foreign and domestic, seems inclined not to plan ahead -- not to take a long view, and analyze and act wisely on problems before they reach a crisis. Then, we invariably go in with military force and back frantic people into corners -- with disastrous results. I suppose it is due to the fact that for a long time we have become habituated to trying to solve all social and economic problems with military force. Yet, at least ever since Vietnam, the indications have been clear that military force does not "work" anymore -- if it ever did. We have got to try something beyond it.

That means we have to recognize that when people get frantic, they do desperate things which make their situation worse. If they are pushed to the final extremity they will self-destruct in any of a number of ways. Therefore the conclusion should be: Don't wait to do something until people get frantic. Then, if they are frantic, don't push them into corners and then attempt to use military force to solve the problem.

I'm sure this has been "common knowledge" among psychologists, psychiatrists and social workers for years. Why it does not filter down to the masses is largely due to the fact that, as a nation, we are ourselves frantically trying to preserve our privileged position in the world, and are feeling pushed into corners ourselves. We are also hooked on violence. We have to be on particular guard against our own destructive tendencies before we can wisely deal with others who are likewise disturbed, though perhaps for differing reasons.

63-HQ-1050305-516

In the case of "cults" and "terrorism" we need to be particularly careful because these factions have already consigned themselves to death as a last resort. With the likes of Koresh, we merely helped him to fulfill his own prophecies of Armageddon, which is the logical conclusion of such beliefs. The only reason why the whole world doesn't self-destruct immediately is because the people who belief in such myths are far from being in a majority.

63-HQ-1050305

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b7c

MAILED 16

MAY 26 1993

from  
con

It is true that we don't know much about human motivations, about mental health, and about death wishes. But we know enough to be more patient and less aggressive, and to

avoid forcing issues for the sake of saving face, or saving money at the expense of life, or "winning" in unpredictable conflict situations.

Please take these matters into more careful consideration. I have every desire to support the Clinton administration and help with much needed reforms. But there must be a deeper, more realistic way of viewing life and people if we are to succeed.

Sincerely yours,

[Redacted signature block]  
Dear [Redacted name]

b6  
b7c

310

20 April 1993

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
10th and Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Sir:

*Waco TX*

We, the undersigned, wish to express our unqualified support for the manner in which the FBI handled the entire Branch Davidian situation which culminated so tragically on 19 April 1993. Despite the predictable second-guessing of the news media, relatives of Branch Davidians who perished in the fire, and others with questionable political agendas, we do not believe the matter could have been handled more appropriately.

Special Agent Ricks, in particular, deserves commendation for his handling of a press corps in a feeding frenzy. He did not yield to the severe stress inherent in the situation, and he clearly communicated that the operation had been conducted with restraint, with compassion, and with the utmost concern for the safety of Branch Davidians and law enforcement personnel alike. As a representative of the FBI, Agent Ricks furthered the image of a thoroughly professional law enforcement agency.

We are disturbed, however, by press reports that Attorney General Reno may be having second thoughts about her decision to assault the compound on 19 April, that she may feel she was mistaken in her order to proceed as planned. We fervently hope that this is no more than innuendo and that she will not yield to pressure brought to bear by individuals and groups who assuredly do not represent the American consensus. Hearing her say, initially and repeatedly, that she accepted "full responsibility" for the decision, that "the buck stops here," underscored our confidence in her judgment, in her sense of responsibility for her office, and in her equal commitment to compassion and justice. We hope that you will pass these comments to the Office of the Attorney General. We believe Ms. Reno to be the best possible selection to fill this critical position, and her thoughtful yet decisive behavior on this occasion confirms this belief.

Again, we would like to express our full support for your actions, both during the long siege and during that final, tragic day. The true tragedy of this situation lies in the fact that it should be perfectly obvious, to all rational people, that *your plan would have worked with minimal loss of life had David Koresh and his followers not chosen a fiery suicide--a patently irrational course of action on their part.*

MAILED 16

MAY 26 1993

FBI

*63-110-1050305-517*

*Fair  
Pnd*

MAIL ROOM

*b6  
b7c*

*63-110-1050305*

ACK  
5/24/93

*b6  
b7c  
OPLN*

We sincerely hope that your office and the Office of the Attorney General will remain unified in your conviction that your decisions and actions were both prudent and just.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Da

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b6  
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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b6  
b7C

[REDACTED]

310

May 10, 1993

b6  
b7c

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Office of the Director, Director William Sessions  
Ninth Street and Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20537-9700

Dear Director Sessions:

I am a seventh grader from St. Paul Lutheran School in Fort Worth, TX. I am writing this letter to tell you how I liked what the F.B.I did in <sup>D</sup>Waco and what I would have done differently about the compound.

From what I have heard, the people in the compound had stories or something about the F.B.I. that could hurt or destroy the F.B.I. So you had to let as few people as possible get out of the compound so they wouldn't tell anyone. I also have heard that the people in the compound had their chance to leave the compound before the F.B.I came in. I think what the F.B.I. did was good, but I would have tried to make a deal with the Branch Davidians like if they agreed not to tell about the stories, the F.B.I. would not try to push and move out the Branch Davidians. If they did not agree then I would have gone into the compound like the F.B.I. did.

I thank you for reading this letter. I appreciate all you have done. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

63-HQ-1050305-518

MAILED 16

MAY 26 1993

Dear [redacted]

b6 was 5/19

b7c  
63-HQ-1050805

OPRA [redacted]

form Pro b6  
b7c ✓ JPC [redacted]

ACK  
5/24/93

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[REDACTED]

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Waco [REDACTED]

FBI  
Washington D.C. 20535

To whom it may concern

The recent situation in Waco leaves me concerned. It seems to me that the forces were not very organized. Everything I have heard and read points to the fact that their plans were not concrete enough. For this flaw people paid with their lives. Am I reading things incorrectly or is there a problem? If there is a problem what will be done about it?

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

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RECEIVED

RECEIVED

FBI

FBI  
WASHINGTON D.C.  
20535

Farm  
com

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63-HQ-1050305  
63-HQ-1050305-519

MAIL ROOM

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Rm [REDACTED]

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b7C  
Waco

[Redacted]

May 10, 1993

Federal Bureau of Investigations  
Office of Director Sessions  
Ninth St. and Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20573-9700

Dear Director Sessions:

My name is [Redacted] I am from Fort Worth, TX. I am in the seventh grade at St. Paul Lutheran School and Church.

Thank you for finally ending the cult stand-off. I know that the people in Waco are happy it is over. It is also a real relief for me to know it is over.

I think you did the right thing to end it. I also know that you did not start the fire at the compound near Waco.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

Dear [Redacted]



ST. PAUL LUTHERAN SCHOOL  
1800 West Freeway  
Fort Worth, Texas 76102

63-HQ-1050305-520

MAILED 16

MAY 26 1993

Federal Bureau of Investigations  
Office of Director Sessions  
Ninth St. and Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20573-9700

Farm Rep

MAIL ROOM

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63-HQ-1050305

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[Redacted]

310  
[REDACTED]  
April 23, 1993

b6  
b7c

Director William Sessions  
FBI Director  
J. Edgar Hoover Bldg.  
10th and Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20535

Dear William Sessions:

I don't think that you handled the problem near Waco <sup>TX</sup> to good. I know there are some reasons why you didn't do some of the things that could have been done. I think that you should have sent five or more Navy Seals inside the compound to bring out some of the people like the kids, a few at a time. I was just wondering what ~~FBI~~ would you have done to David Koresh and his faithful followers if you would have caught them? Thanks for taking the time to read my letter.

MAILED 16

MAY 26 1993

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CNC

ack  
5/24/93  
[REDACTED]

b6  
b7c

MAIL ROOM ☒ [REDACTED]

63-HQ-1050305-521

Sincerely,  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

63-HQ-1050305

b6  
b7c  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Per Zip directory

April 23, 1993

b6  
b7C

Director William Sessions  
F.B.I

Dear William Sessions:

I want to tell you that you could have done a better job in Waco, TX. It seems like the F.B.I was not organized. If the F.B.I could have hired some sniper to do the job. I think the sniper would have done a better and faster job.

63-HQ-1050305

63-HQ-1050305-522

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Dear

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MAIL ROOM ☒ [initials]

[REDACTED]



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b7C



April 30, 1993

Mr. William S. Sessions, Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
J. Edgar Hoover Building  
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Director Sessions: (Bill)

I wish to congratulate you on the manner <sup>TX</sup> in which you executed the necessary procedures in the Waco incident. There is no doubt in my mind that the leader, thinking he was God, planned for a suicidal conclusion to his organization. We surely are all heavy-hearted in reference to the loss of life, especially the children and the ATF personnel. I, also, wish to commend you in your patience in waiting fifty-one days before making the necessary assault. If I were in your place, I would have used the creation scripture of seven days and, if they didn't come out, I would have gone in. In watching you on TV the other night, I believe your professionalism and intellect shone forth under the attacks by the Investigating Committee. Just wanted to let you know that we of the New Jersey State Police and the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police, supported you whole-heartedly.

Your friend in law enforcement,



Encl A humble request

1- ENCLOSURE

b6  
b7C

63-HQ-1050305-523

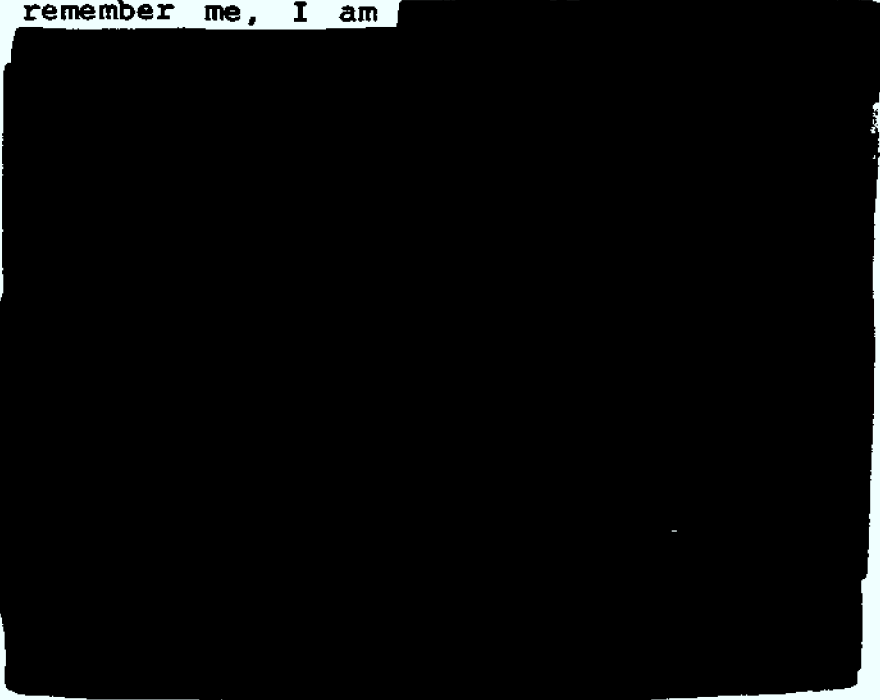
Ack  
related (typed 5/14/93)

signed 5/12/93

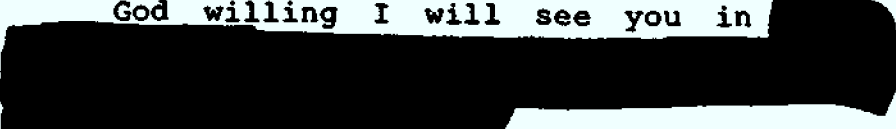
OPCA  
b6  
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Dear Bill:


We have been associated through the  
I.A.C.P. for many years--if you do not  
remember me, I am



God willing I will see you in



Sincerely, your brother in Christ,



William S. Sessions, Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

PERSONAL

63-HQ-1050305-323  
ENCLOSURE

MAY 18 1993

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your recent letter of strong support for the FBI in its handling of the siege at the Mount Carmel Compound in Waco, Texas. The FBI relies upon the support of the American people for what it does, and I very much appreciate your expression of support and that of the New Jersey State Police and the New Jersey Chiefs as well.

I am delighted by your other note and by your interest in forwarding your request to Supervisory Special Agent [REDACTED] of our Behavioral Science Services Unit at Quantico, who is in charge of [REDACTED]. I am sure he, too, will be glad to learn of your request, and you should hear from him in the near future.

With warmest regards,

Sincerely yours,

William S. Sessions

William S. Sessions  
Director

- 1 - SAC, Newark (PERSONAL ATTENTION) - Enclosures (2)  
1 - Mr. Horn - Enclosures (3) Quantico

Personal Attention: [REDACTED] Request [REDACTED] referred

to you for appropriate handling.

- 1 - Mr. Collingwood, Room 7240

NOTE: Response requested by the Director. No record in Bufiles. Contact with SSA [REDACTED] Office determined he will not be in the Office until May 24th

(6)

APPROVED: [REDACTED]

Director [REDACTED]

Dep. Dir. [REDACTED]

Asst. Dir. [REDACTED]

Adm. Serv. [REDACTED]

Adm. Serv. [REDACTED]

Crim. Inv. [REDACTED]

Crim. Jus. Info. [REDACTED]

Serv. [REDACTED]

Ident. [REDACTED]

Info. Mgmt. [REDACTED]

Inspection [REDACTED]

Intell. [REDACTED]

Laboratory [REDACTED]

Legal Coun. [REDACTED]

Tech. Serv. [REDACTED]

Training [REDACTED]

Off. of Cong. & Public Affs. [REDACTED]

Off. of Liaison [REDACTED]

& Int. Affs. [REDACTED]

Off. of Records [REDACTED]

& Com. Affs. [REDACTED]

Legal Off. [REDACTED]

MAIL ROOM ☐

321

**Dear Mr. Gaines:**

My view is that while this represents support for the actions of the FBI, it also reflects strong recognition by the American public of the difficult circumstances frequently faced by law enforcement and the need to have law and order in our society. As I testified to before Congress, no one in the FBI is satisfied with the outcome. We are especially saddened by the loss of the children who we wanted so desperately to save. We are, however, deeply appreciative of the recognition by the public of the difficulties confronting the FBI and other law enforcement in combatting violent criminals and of the support and cooperation given to us by the public in this critical endeavor.

## William S. Sessions

1 - Mr. Drake *John*  
1 - Mr. Collingwood

1 - Mr. Clarke  
1 - Mr. Gow  
1 - Mr. Potts  
1 - Mr. Coulson

Director \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
ADD-Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
ADD-Inv. \_\_\_\_\_

Adm. Servs.	3	Mr. Mandigo	Off. of EEO Affs.
Crim. Inv.		Mr. [illegible]	Off. of Liaison
Crim. Jus. Info.		Laboratory	& Int. Affs.
Serve.		Legal Coun.	Off. of Public
Ident.		Tech. Servs.	& Cong. Affs.
Indo. Mgmt.		Training	FOIA Off.

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 & Int. Affs. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ch. of Public \_\_\_\_\_  
 & Cong. Affs. \_\_\_\_\_  
 TOM Off. \_\_\_\_\_

April 27, 1993

The Honorable Janet Reno  
Attorney General of the United States  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Ms. Attorney General:

As United States citizens, we are proud to have a person as yourself representing of the people of the United States.

The recent events in Waco were catastrophic to say the least, and we strongly feel that had the press and media reported the facts and not shown undue bias that the siege would not have continued for fifty one days.

We strongly feel that the ATF's actions were warranted, and are substantiated by the arsenal currently being uncovered. All of us, regardless of beliefs and practices must follow the law of the land and be responsible for our own actions.

Mr. Robert Ricks, the FBI Agent that held the daily news conferences is to be commended in displaying outstanding patience and fortitude in dealing with the media. The negotiations appeared to take it's toll as each day progressed and the last news conference held by him was so heart breaking as one could tell that this turn of events was so unexpected and so sudden that his heartfelt emotions were felt by all who watched and listened.

With most of us being employed by an organization that is rule oriented, and in our particular daily responsibilities are accountable to the United States Treasury, we are fully cognizant of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Treasury's role in the day to day problems of this country.

John Chancellor's editorial comments that the agents were "tired" and that issue was a "management problem" was totally uncalled for as he quoted numbers and budgets, that the Treasury had no back up for this specialized team of agents. This mentality is absurd.

Ted Koppell's question of you about resigning was totally out of place. We have always been an admirer of Mr. Koppell, but now have doubts.

Our own Governor, Anne Richards, was noticeably quiet during this time, being quick to reiterate that this was a FBI operation and the State had no input. This was most disappointing to many of us who voted for and hold her in the utmost esteem. Now that the Texas Rangers have a direct responsibility, and report to Ms. Richards, we are anxiously awaiting her responses.

1-22-2000

ACK

100-1050305-526

01

Page 2

The manner in which you responded to and continue to respond to the press and media is honest, forthright and "no holds barred", and is a welcome change from most of our government officials. There is no hesitation on your part on your answers or comments, but we cannot say the same for our President, Mr. Clinton and the Secretary of the Treasury, Lloyd Bentsen had to wait to see which way the wind was blowing before any comments were made. For Mr. Bentsen, an ex-Senator from this state, to wait four days before coming forward is inexcusable.

As quoted in our local newspaper, Harry S. Truman said "The buck stops here" but he didn't wait 24 hours to see which way the wind was blowing as did Mr. Clinton and most of our Congressional Representatives. Now everyone has an opinion and is quite willing for the press to cover their respective comments, especially when they are of a negative nature.

In closing, this letter is to support you in your endeavors and to let you know "we are proud of you".

Very truly yours,



b6  
b7c

ALL CONCERNED CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Page 3

cc:

The President  
William Jefferson Clinton  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20501

The Honorable Lloyd Bentson  
Secretary of the Treasury  
Treasury Building  
Washington, D. C. 20535

✓ The Honorable William Sessions  
Director of Federal Bureau of Investigation  
10th and Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D. C. 20535 with enclosure ✓

The Honorable Ann Richards  
Governor of the State of Texas  
Capitol Building  
Austin, Tx 78701

Mr. Robert Ricks  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
50 Penn Place  
Oklahoma City, Ok. 73118

Mr. Jeffrey Jamar  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
615 East Houston  
San Antonio, Tx 78205

American Broadcasting Corporation  
47 West 66th Street  
New York City, NY 10023

Capital Broadcasting Corporation  
51 West 52nd Street  
New York, NY 10019

National Broadcasting Corporation  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, NY 10020

Cable News Network  
One CNN Center  
P. O. Box 105366  
Atlanta, Ga 30348

April 27, 1993

Mr. Robert Ricks  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Oklahoma City Bureau  
Oklahoma City, Texas

Dear Mr. Ricks:

Having been an avid listener to your daily media reports from Waco, Texas, we are impressed beyond words with the manner in which you held your news conferences and the immense pressure you and your fellow agents must have been under. No one from the outside can possibly comprehend how the last fifty one days have affected your organization, your families and most of all, yourself.

Our media and news reporters in almost every instance, were a constant embarrassment to us and some wonder how they ever passed Journalism 101. Professional etiquette must not be in their vocabulary.

The decision to proceed was supported in this city with a 93% approval rating and there will always be nay sayers, extreme liberals, and someone looking for a cause to second guess decisions and play Monday morning quarterbacks.

The events in Waco were catastrophic and God willing, we will not see anything of this nature again.

We must support our local, state and federal agencies if we are to survive as a nation, a nation with laws and the people like yourself and your associates to deal with madmen, bombers, and the like.

We are impressed with Attorney General Reno's reactions and attached is a copy of a letter sent to her.

Very truly yours,



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63-HQ-1050305-526  
ENCLOSURE

MAY 19 1993

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your thoughtfulness in providing me copies of your April 27th letters to Attorney General Reno and Special Agent in Charge Bob Ricks, expressing support for the FBI in its handling of the siege at the Mount Carmel Compound in Waco, Texas.

The FBI relies upon the support of the American people for what it does, and I appreciate your expression of that support.

Please also express my gratitude to the others who signed your letter to the Attorney General.

Sincerely yours, .

William S. Sessions

William S. Sessions  
Director

- 1 - SAC, San Antonio (PERSONAL ATTENTION) - Enclosures (2)  
1 - SAC, Oklahoma City (PERSONAL ATTENTION) - Enclosures (2)  
1 - Mr. Collingwood, Room 7240

NOTE: Above response requested by the Director. No record in Bufiles.

Dep. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
ADD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
ADD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir.:  
Adm. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_  
Crim. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
CJIS \_\_\_\_\_  
Ident. \_\_\_\_\_  
Info. Mgnt. \_\_\_\_\_  
Insp. \_\_\_\_\_  
Intell. \_\_\_\_\_  
Lab. \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
Tech. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_  
Training \_\_\_\_\_  
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Off. of Liaison \_\_\_\_\_  
& Int. Affs. \_\_\_\_\_  
Off. of Public \_\_\_\_\_  
& Cong. Affs. \_\_\_\_\_  
TOM Office \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director's Office \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL ROOM

APPROVED: [REDACTED] (6)  
Director [REDACTED]  
Dep. Dir. [REDACTED]  
ADD-Adm. [REDACTED]  
ADD-Inv. [REDACTED]

Adm. Servs. _____	Inspection _____	Off. of EEO Affs. _____
Crim. Inv. _____	Intell. _____	Off. of Liaison _____
Crim. Jus. Info _____	Laboratory _____	& Int. Affs. _____
Servs. _____	Legal Coun. _____	Off. of Public _____
Ident. _____	Tech. Servs. _____	& Cong. Affs. _____
Info. Mgnt. _____	Training _____	TOM Off. _____

63 HQ-1050305-527

b6 b7c

Wichita Crime Commission, Inc.



316-267-1235

Bobby F. Stout  
President

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WILLIAM R. MURFIN  
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WOODROW R. RICE, SR.  
CARL W. SEBITS  
JAY D. SWANSON  
ROBERT F. VICKERS

April 22, 1993

William S. Sessions, Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, DC 20535

Dear Director Sessions:

On behalf of the Wichita Crime Commission, which is dedicated to the prevention of crime and enforcement of criminal laws, I want to express our strong support for you and agents of the FBI in the decision to end the hold out of the Davidian Cult. We share in the remorse of the death of the children, but recognize innocent bystanders cannot always be saved. It is unfortunate many people lose sight of the fact, persons inside the compound were responsible for the deaths of four federal agents and had to be brought to justice.

Apparently the second guessing self appointed experts and Monday morning quarterbacks were conveniently in hiding when all the difficult decisions had to be made. We are in total agreement with you in your assessment that "Enough was enough."

Sincerely,

*John E. Tangeman*  
John E. Tangeman, President

JET/sa

cc: Mr. Don K. Pettus, SAC - FBI, Kansas City, MO  
Ms. Janet Reno, U.S. Attorney General

63-HQ-1050305-528

ACK b6 b7C  
Undated (Typed 5-18-93)

5/19/93

310

MAY 19 1993

Mr. John E. Tangeman  
President  
Wichita Crime Commission, Inc.  
Suite 1115  
125 North Market  
Wichita, Kansas 67202

Dear Mr. Tangeman:

Many thanks to you and to the Wichita Crime Commission for your strong support in your April 22nd letter for the FBI's handling of the siege at the Mount Carmel Compound in Waco, Texas.

We rely upon the support of the American people and the law enforcement community, and, on behalf of the FBI, I want to express appreciation to you and the other members of the Commission for your expression of support.

Sincerely yours,

William S. Sessions

William S. Sessions  
Director

63-HQ-1050305-529

- ☐ Dep. Dir.
- ☐ ADD Adm.
- ☐ ADD Inv.
- ☐ Asst. Dir.:
- ☐ Adm. Servs.
- ☐ Crim. Inv.
- ☐ CJS
- ☐ Ident.
- ☐ Info. Mgmt.
- ☐ Insp.
- ☐ Intell.
- ☐ Lab.
- ☐ Legal Coun.
- ☐ Tech. Servs.
- ☐ Training
- ☐ Off. of EEOA
- ☐ Off. Liaison
- ☐ & Int. Affs.
- ☐ Off. of Public
- ☐ & Cong. Affs.
- ☐ M. Office
- ☐ Phone Rm.
- ☐ Dir's Office

- SAC, San Antonio (PERSONAL ATTENTION) - Enclosure
- SAC, Kansas City (PERSONAL ATTENTION) - Enclosure
- Mr. Collingwood, Room 7240

NOTE: Above reply requested by the Director. No record in Bufiles.

(6)  
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b7c  
MAIL ROOM

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b7c

MAY 24 1993

FBI



March 18, 1993

Dep. Dir.	_____
ADD Adm.	_____
ADD Inv.	_____
Asst. Dir.	_____
Adm. Servs.	_____
Crim. Inv.	_____
Ident.	_____
Info. Mgmt.	_____
Insp.	_____
Intell.	_____
Lab.	_____
Legal Coun.	_____
Tech. Servs.	_____
Training	_____
Cong. Affs. Off.	_____
Off. of EEO	_____
Off. Liaison & Int. Affs.	_____
Off. of Public Affs.	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director's Office	_____

Director William Sessions  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
J. Edgar Hoover Building, Rm. 7176  
Washington, DC 20535

Dear Mr. Sessions:

I am given to understand that the FBI, through its Alexandria Bureau, is currently conducting an investigation of the Cult Awareness Network.

Recent events in Waco give special urgency to such an investigation.

Several people associated with the Cult Awareness Network have a long history of involvement with deprogramming and other illegal methods of depriving people of their first amendment rights. I understand that Cult Awareness Network people were involved in activities that preceeded the tragic events in Waco.

If such an investigation is in fact in process, I encourage you to give it the full support of your office. If no such investigation is presently underway, I urge you to institute one.

For the past fifteen years I have studied minority religious movements as a part of my academic research and teaching. It is my professional opinion that a thorough investigation of the Cult Awareness Network is long overdue. There are many scholars, in a number of universities throughout the country, who make this material an object of their scholarly work. I hope you will take advantage of that wealth of documented information in your investigation.

Thank you for your careful consideration.

Sincerely,

63-HQ-1050305-530

May 26, 1993

Dear [REDACTED]

Your March 18th communication to Director Sessions has been referred to me for response.

I share his appreciation for your interest in making your views known and want to thank you for your suggestion.

Sincerely yours,

MFK /S

Michael F. Knapp  
Inspector-Deputy Chief  
Office of Public and  
Congressional Affairs

- 1 - SAC, WMFO - Enclosure
- 1 - SAC, Seattle - Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Collingwood (Room 7240)
- 1 - Mr. Knapp (Room 7270)

NOTE: Bufiles checked.

Dep. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
ADD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
ADD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Adm. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_  
Crim. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
CJIS \_\_\_\_\_  
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Info. Mgnt. \_\_\_\_\_  
Insp. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Off. of EEOA \_\_\_\_\_  
Off. Liaison \_\_\_\_\_  
& Int. Affs. \_\_\_\_\_  
Off. of Public \_\_\_\_\_  
& Cong. Affs. \_\_\_\_\_  
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